

INTRODUCTION:

GASP Election Team: **Please review the following information for accuracy. Please comment on your Co-Chairs' suggestion for next steps.**

1. GASP Process

- a) GASP covered 5 electoral districts and contacted all candidates (28) asking for their responses to the 5 GASP priorities.
- b) 5 Liberal, 3 NDP, 3 Green, 1 PC, 1 NOTA responded.
- c) No Responses from 5 New Blue, 3 Ontario Party, 4 PC, 2 NDP, and 1 green candidate.

2. Electoral Districts & Candidates

Burlington, Milton, Oakville, Oakville-North Burlington, Wellington-Halton Hills

Liberal

Sameera Ali-response
Alison Gohel-response
Kaniz Mouli-response
Miriam Manaa-response
Thomas Takacs-response

NDP

Andrew Drummond-response
Katherine Cirlincione-response
Ryan Vincent-Smith-response
Diane Ballantyne- no response
Maeve McNaughton- no response

Green

Kyle Hutton-response
Bruno Sousa-response
Ryan Kahro-response
Ali Hosney – no response

No candidate (Milton)

PC

Natalie Pierre- no response
Parm Gill – no response
Stephen Crawford – no response
Effie Triantafilopoulos – no response
Ted Arnott-response

New Blue

Allison McKenzie – no response
John Spina – no response
Mark Fraser Platt – no response
Doru Marin Gordan – no response
Stephen Kitras – no response

Ontario Party

Sebastien Aldea – no response
Alicia Bedford – no response
Jill Service – no response

None of The Above Party (NOTA)

Stephen Kenneth Crawford – response

3. Candidates Responses to GASP priorities by party

NDP CANDIDATES

Priority #1 – Build A “Real” Ontario Climate Emergency Action Plan

- a) Emissions/binding targets**
- b) Ending Fossil Fuel subsidies/invest in renewables**
- c) Protect Nature and work with Indigenous people.**

“Our target is more ambitious than the one set by GASP. We believe that the *bare minimum* required is to reduce our emissions by 50% below the 2005 baseline by 2030. We share your goal of eliminating oil and gas industry subsidies. Ontario currently subsidizes fossil fuels by some \$700 million a year and spends \$16 to \$24 billion every year to import fossil fuels.”

Priority #2 – Develop Sustainable Land Use Planning Reforms

- a) Cancelling HWY 413/Bradford By-Pass**
- b) Restore powers of Conservation Authorities/Strengthen Bill of Rights**
- c) Sustainable land use**
- d) Food security**

“Decisions made by the Conservative government have prioritized unnecessary, costly, and harmful projects over our greenbelt. We are committed to restoring the powers of the Environmental commissioner, work in partnership with conservation authorities, mandate all newly built public, residential, and commercial buildings to be net zero emissions by 2030, in conjunction with a world leading building retrofit program and electrifying all municipal transit by 2040.”

Priority #3 – Implement a Just Transition

- a) Public Health**
- b) Basic Income**
- c) Green economy and green jobs**
- d) Systematic discrimination**
- e) Create Youth Climate Force**

“Our plan is based on values we all share: equity, affordability, and reconciliation. It’s rooted in justice and committed to a just transition –

which promises nobody, and no community, will be left behind. We will establish Ontario's first Youth Climate Corps."

"We recognize that the growing environmental crisis disproportionately impacts rural communities, working class people, Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, migrant communities, and other marginalized groups. The ONDP is committed to approaching all policies and programs through the lens of equity for all Ontarians."

"COVID-19 has highlighted our society's many glaring inequities, as well as showing the toll a global crisis takes on our economy, health system and social service network. We've seen small business owners lose their livelihoods while big box stores rake in unprecedented profits; essential workers struggling to make rent because governments refuse to ensure they're paid a living wage. We've seen thousands of vulnerable seniors lose their lives while for-profit long-term care homes make massive profits. We've seen low-income and marginalized communities hit hardest by the virus."

Priority #4 – Provide A Public Education Campaign on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

a) Broad Public Education Campaign

b) Work with Municipalities and Local Residents

"Education is a key component of getting public support for the necessary climate mitigation programs that we desperately need. Every part of our environmental plan requires that we collaborate effectively with not just people, but other levels of government. We need to work with farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and rural Ontarians to protect and restore our natural spaces."

"Educating the public on the Climate Crisis and its far-reaching impacts is vital to a successful implementation of our policies. Collaboration with local groups and individuals who have been advocating for the environment and doing the work to highlight this information and work to end predatory

practices aimed to enrich the few and harm many. The future can be hopeful and strong but requires immediate action and transparent communication about the Climate Crisis.”

Priority #5 – Spend What It Takes

a) No more wasted \$s.

“Our commitments on spending what it takes could not be clearer. Simply put, the cost of inaction when it comes to the climate crisis will be far higher than the investments we must make now to secure a safer, more prosperous future.”

“Ontario must spend what it takes. There is no alternative when considering effects on marginalized groups, the health of Ontarians, the immense economic repercussions from doing too little now, the future livelihood, safety, and quality of life for a future that is fast approaching. The climate crisis can no longer be ignored.”

LIBERAL CANDIDATES

Priority #1 – Build A “Real” Ontario Climate Emergency Action Plan

“Cut Ontario’s carbon pollution in half by 2030.”

“We can’t consume our way out of a climate crisis with green washed products that are designed to make the individual feel that their actions alone are responsible for climate change. We certainly all have a role to play- including at the individual level- but if governments don’t seriously rethink and retool our societies and economies to function in a way that stops exploiting our planet’s resources we will never reach our targets.”

“An Ontario Liberal government will cut Ontario’s carbon pollution in half, create 25,000 green jobs, charge carbon polluters and reward companies who lower their emissions. Two decades ago, more and more children developed asthma and other illnesses because of pollution. When the Ontario Liberals closed down coal plants across the province, carbon pollution fell by 24% and asthma rates fell too, and we saw an end to those

smog days. After four years of the Ford Conservative, we're going in the wrong direction and the Ontario Liberal plan will get us back on track."

"Cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Expand the Greenbelt and designate 30% of our land as protected areas by 2030. As part of this expansion, we'll add five new provincial parks across Ontario."

"If we do not become more proactive rather than reactive, we will lose the battle of survival."

Priority #2 – Develop Sustainable Land Use Planning Reforms

"Stop HWY 413 and responsibly maintain crucial highways."

"We will cancel HWY 413 outright as we know it is not needed. Our land use planning will involve municipalities in determining where and how growth will occur and will severely limit the use of MZOs. We will protect farmland to maintain a home-grown food supply when and where possible. We also have programs to assist farmers and support farming to keep land in production."

"Stopping HWY 413 and saving more than thousands of acres of environmentally sensitive areas and prime farmland. Scrapping MZOs, instead only allowing fast-tracking of critical provincial projects/infrastructures that benefit low-income, marginalized, and racialized people. This includes projects such as affordable housing and not-for-profit nursing homes."

"The Ontario Liberal government created the Greenbelt, and we will expand it in step with farmers, local neighborhoods, and Indigenous communities. We will get carbon pollution out of our air by planting 100 million trees a year over the next eight years and we will create 2,000 green jobs for young people. We will repeal the Ford Conservatives' environmentally harmful changes to legislation related to conservation, land-planning, the environment, and endangered species."

"Strengthen the powers of Ontario's Conservation Authorities to prevent flooding and protect green spaces, farmland, drinking water, biodiversity, and species at risk."

Priority #3 – Implement a Just Transition

“This starts with a Just Transition and policies that will both encourage and enable us to change our lifestyles and behaviors. A green economy will require disinvestment in fossil fuels and a transition to clean energy; it will require us to rethink the way we build and live in communities, the way we work, the way we travel, the way we eat, and everything in between. These types of changes mean that some people will inadvertently be left behind if we are not intentional about the way we transition away from fossil fuels. It is critical that we do not allow that to happen and ensure that we are re-training and providing new skills to workers to thrive in a green economy.”

“Our government will put workers first, and that helps our province transition to a new way of doing things. We’ll make things better for people and build our economy from the ground up. Hence, we will reinstate the basic income pilot project that was cancelled by Doug Ford.”

Priority #4 – Provide A Public Education Campaign on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

“We will increase funding to education and health by building and repairing schools, cancelling for-profit health care and long-term care, ensuring that schools’ curriculums meet the new economy and changing climate and increase funding and support to train new health care workers.”

Priority #5 – Spend What It Takes

“The Ford Conservatives will waste billions on highways into the Greenbelt while the Ontario Liberals will protect the Greenbelt and cancel Ford’s HWY 413, investing that money into building and repairing our schools. And by introducing \$1 transit, we’ll make travelling a more affordable and convenient choice, increase transit ridership, and cut pollution by taking cars off the road.”

GREEN CANDIDATES

Priority #1 – Build A “Real” Ontario Climate Emergency Action Plan

“We believe in setting and meeting strict targets as advised by the recommendations in the successive IPCC reports, enforced through a ‘Zero Carbon Law’ that will hold the government accountable no matter what party is in power.”

“We have a real plan to reach net-zero by 2045.” “We need immediate and decisive action on climate crisis, first priority” “Greens have a long-standing respect for and recognition of Indigenous cultures worldwide and this has helped the form the Green Party social justice policy. We look to First Nations for leadership and guidance not just from environmental wisdom but also spirituality and social justice.”

Priority #2 – Develop Sustainable Land Use Planning Reforms

“I strongly oppose highway 413 and other similar highways and believe precious funds need to be invested in green infrastructure including public transit, net zero homes and retrofitted commercial buildings.”

Priority #3 – Implement a Just Transition

“We need to prioritize land for ecological preservation and food sustainability, apply environmental lens to planning and zoning and even lifestyle, and empower more public and organizational engagement in the drafting of regional and municipal plans.”

“We need to push for universal income system that prioritizes basic needs and is equitable to families and individuals.”

“The Green Party and I believe strongly in a just transition that rolls back ‘punitive measures’ to catch so-called ‘cheats’ and retools our province to provide care for our people, not punish them.”

“The housing crisis, affordability of living, healthcare and education crisis are all important issues that we cannot ignore and must address, but without immediate and decisive action on the climate crisis, the challenges we are facing in these other social and economic spaces are going to be amplified to an existential level.”

“We need to empower youth to be guardians of our future.”

“We need to address social and economic inequality.”

Priority #4 – Provide A Public Education Campaign on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

“A proper education campaign, not just in schools but for residents everywhere will go a long way to getting the public behind a mass campaign

of emissions reductions and environmental protection. I believe it is key we take the emphasis away from what individuals can do and talk more about what communities and industry must do. Recycling and ZEV's and other initiatives are important, but the burden of climate change should be on society as a whole."

"We need a whole-of-government approach to the problem of climate change."

Priority #5 – Spend What It Takes

"We should push to review all spending in the province through the social and environmental lens to reallocate funding."

"Funds required should be generated in a way that is least impactful on individuals and should be collected from corporations."

"We need to end wasteful projects like highway plans and the put the funds to support Ontarians with Basic Income and livable wages."

CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES

Priority #1 – Build A "Real" Ontario Climate Emergency Action Plan

"We need to do more to address the climate crisis. We in Ontario need to do our part to reduce carbon emissions and reduce individual carbon footprints. New technologies, some of which have yet to be invented, will help."

Priority #2 – Develop Sustainable Land Use Planning Reforms

No responses

Priority #3 – Implement a Just Transition

No responses

Priority #4 – Provide A Public Education Campaign on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

No responses

Priority #5 – Spend What It Takes

No responses

OTHER PARTIES

NEW BLUE PARTY-NO RESPONSES FROM 5 HALTON CANDIDATES

ONTARIO PARTY- NO RESPONSES FROM 3 HALTON CANDIDATES

NONE OF THE ABOVE PARTY (NOTA) 1 CANDIDATE SEE BELOW

Priority #1 – Build A “Real” Ontario Climate Emergency Action Plan

“Everything GASP is asking (GASP election priorities) is completely doable in stages. 100 percent renewable would be great once we get sustainable and renewable energy source along the lines of Zero-point energy.”

Priority #2 – Develop Sustainable Land Use Planning Reforms

No response

Priority #3 – Implement a Just Transition

No response

Priority #4 – Provide A Public Education Campaign on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

No response

Priority #5 – Spend What It Takes

“We have been trusting, with our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren “politicians’ who have put greed and corruption and personal gain over the health and safety of the world, not just Canada.”

4. Conclusion & Suggestion for Next Step

The GASP results to our Climate Crisis Priorities for the Ontario June election were essentially the same as in the two previous elections that we monitored. Conservatives would not engage in interviews or in all-candidate meetings, did not respond to emails and refused to respond to citizens outside of their riding (although GASPs live in every Halton riding).

Whereas the Liberal, NDP, and Green responses were quite similar, even compatible with the five GASP election priorities. Some examples are: all three parties have emission targets that match or exceed the Federal targets; oppose highway#413; promote protection of nature by 30%; agree to strengthen and enforce environmental rights; are against urban sprawl; promote saving farmland; intend to increase funding for public healthcare; are against privatization of Long-Term Care; support Basic Income; and share a sense that ignoring and delaying action on the climate crisis will cost us dearly in the future.

We would be remiss in not pointing out the Green Candidates for their “wonderful, lengthy, fulsome responses” (Dorothy GASP lead). We agree that all three Green candidates were impressive ‘Climate Champions’. Unlike some of the other candidates who quoted directly from party platforms without referencing GASP priorities, the Greens were knowledgeable, passionate, and responded in depth about their plans for each priority and spoke ‘from the heart’.

Two NDP candidates did respond directly to GASP priorities and referenced their party platforms.

Two Liberal candidates added to their initial comments and highlighted key environmental measures following the release of their party platform.

Next Step

These results may be of interest to GASPS but it is not the stuff for Op-ed/ Commentary/Opinion. Anyone with the slightest of interest in the election knows that Conservatives do not care about the climate crisis and that the other main parties do. Today, affordability, housing, healthcare and education are THE issues prioritized over climate. GASPs know that without urgent action on the climate crisis - affordability, housing, healthcare, and education will be made much worse. It is all connected.

Can we write an Op-ed that makes that connection?

We will need a story or a ‘hook’.

Co-chairs have a new idea! Please read "Ford Must Care for People Like He Does for Cars" Let's discuss after the GASP ZOOM meeting tomorrow!

<https://www.thestar.com/business/opinion/2022/05/20/if-i-were-a-car-id-vote-conservative-but-im-not-a-car-im-a-woman-and-fords-plan-seems-to-forget-we-exist.html>