



GRAND(M)OTHERS ACT
TO SAVE THE PLANET

GASP PRIORITIES for ONTARIO ELECTION

Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet (GASP) is a grassroots, non-partisan group of over 100 grandmothers and grand'others' who care deeply about the world our descendants will inherit. GASP is committed to climate justice and political actions that leave a green legacy. GASP Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eODbBxjc6il>

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has called 'CODE RED' FOR HUMANITY unless we immediately stop the heating of the earth caused by greenhouse gas emissions. We must **Stop** the expansion of fossil fuels! **Phase out** production and burning of fossil fuels and **Invest** heavily in renewable energy!

Their "Climate Change 2022" report warns us that Climate breakdown is accelerating and the impacts are far greater than previously estimated. Some are irreversible as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt. Climate change is already killing people, destroying homes and livelihoods, and demolishing infrastructure and ecosystems. We must accelerate the shift to renewable energy sources.

For every degree of warming there are increased wildfires, droughts to devastate farming, rising sea levels to wipe out fishing and catastrophic degradation to the permafrost in the north. We Canadians shoulder a heavy responsibility. We, per capita, have one of the largest carbon footprints in the world. We owe it to the world and to our grandchildren to make reparations.

An inadequate Ontario Climate Plan has dire implications for Canada because Ontario has 39% of the population and 38% of GDP, thus it makes Ontario's Climate Plan critical for the success of the whole country. The present 'Made in Ontario' Climate Plan is inadequate, as confirmed in the Auditor General's last three reports. It prioritizes profit and 'market-based' planning. It is pro-business and pro-fossil fuels. The impact is one of unlimited growth, building bigger and faster, beyond urban boundaries, over wetlands and farmlands and locking it in for the long term. The health and livability for future generations is threatened.

A 'real' Climate Plan has "**urgency**" and specific actions to phase out oil and gas and to develop a transformative economy that puts people, jobs, and income security first. It aims to build sustainable systems for mitigation and adaptation using proven solutions like renewable green energy. Ontario must develop low-carbon, climate-resilient rural and urban communities.

GASP ELECTION PRIORITIES

- 1. Build A "Real" Ontario Climate Emergency Action Plan**
- 2. Develop Sustainable Land Use Planning Reforms**
- 3. Implement A Just Transition**
- 4. Provide A Public Education Campaign On Climate Mitigation And Adaptation**
- 5. Spend What It Takes**

GASP PRIORITIES in DETAIL

1. BUILD A “REAL” ONTARIO CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

A Climate Emergency Action Plan has urgency, timelines, benchmarks, accountability, annual reports, and binding emission targets that match or surpass the federal government's **target of 40-45% by 2030; 100% by 2050**. The plan must have a climate lens on every policy and program. Measures should be mandated in every Minister's job

Embed all actions in legislation to ensure accountability, transparency, and inclusion in an **Ontario Climate Accountability Act**.

Reinstate the Environmental Commissioner.

Respect And Prioritize indigenous leadership, consent, and consultation

Develop cross government cooperation and synchronized climate planning.

Stop all expansion of fossil fuels

Phase out production and burning of fossil fuels

Cease fossil fuel exploration and infrastructure such as pipelines. No expansion of natural gas plants.

End All Fossil Fuel Subsidies and financial incentives immediately.

Invest heavily in renewable energy and a regenerative zero-emission economy

Create secure sustainable jobs in renewable energy.

Regulate and support businesses to decarbonize and divest from fossil fuels.

Protect natural biodiversity, restore natural ecosystems, and increase soil carbon sequestration.

Protection of nature should be 30% of Ontario's forests, wetlands, green spaces, and freshwater.

2. DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLANNING REFORMS

The present Ontario Government's emphasis on 'market-based' planning has led to the dismantling of environmental guard rails, eliminating and ignoring rules and regulations that protect the environment, and unlimited development.

Strictly Limit MZOs and add more stringent criteria for their use.

Restore And Increase Conservation Authorities Powers.

Strengthen And Enforce Environment Bill of Rights with more stringent rules & regulations and accessible public consultation.

Cancel “Pay-to-Slay”- where developers pay a fee to infringe on the habitat of endangered species.

Restore Climate Lens to all Land Use decisions and restore 20-year planning cycle.

Cancel Hwy#413 and Bradford Bypass

Spend And Accelerate The Transition to zero emissions public transportation.

Mandate zero emission standards for ALL new buildings

Incentivize eco-friendly housing retrofits,

Follow the ambitious lead of Quebec's plan for electric vehicles

Invest in local regenerative agriculture and food systems.

Ensure food security and food sovereignty by adding all prime farmland to the Greenbelt.

3. IMPLEMENT A JUST TRANSITION

JUST TRANSITION is an approach to economic, environmental and social policies that aim to create an equitable and prosperous future for all workers in a lower carbon economy.

Establish A Ministry of Just Transition.

Fund Public Healthcare adequately, to ensure it is accessible, sustainable and equitable.

Ontario spends \$2000 less per capital annually than any other province.

Fund Basic Income, childcare, education and affordable housing and collaborate with all levels of government

Address Systemic Discrimination and inequalities with indigenous, minority and women.

Adhere to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Promote And Invest In A Green Economy. Retool industries and train workers to transition to green jobs.

Develop Adaptation Plans For Climate Risk Reduction. Prepare communities for the impacts of climate change to minimize human suffering.

Plan Housing without extending into valuable farmland.

Preserve Farmland for agriculture.

Create A Youth Climate Force to capitalize on the energy and enthusiasm of youth to save our planet.

4. PROVIDE A PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN on CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Initiate A Broad Public Provincial Education Campaign that tells the truth about the climate and biodiversity crisis and their critical impacts on human survival.

Highlight the positive health benefits, economic employment opportunities that can be created by a green renewable economy.

Educate The Public on the opportunities and positive benefits of acting to mitigate the climate emergency, including what a “Just Transition” would look like.

Work With Municipalities And Local Residents to explain the impacts of urban sprawl, intensification, densification, and highlight the positives of building complete green communities.

Ban Fossil Fuel Industry And Funders from providing ‘advertising’ materials in public schools, similarly to existing prohibition on the tobacco industry marketing cigarettes.

5. SPEND WHAT IT TAKES

The environment, social and economic costs of the climate crisis are in the billions. So much has been wasted over years of ignoring and delaying action on the climate crisis.

Spend what it takes to immediately reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially as the cost of climate inaction will massively outweigh the cost of immediate urgent action.

Shift from fossil fuel industries and infrastructure, specifically gas fired power plants, to renewable energy sources.

Invest 2% of Ontario's GDP (400 billion dollars per year) to advance the zero emissions economy and create tens of thousands of secure, sustainable jobs. (Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign)

Wasted \$s on highways Ontario does not need; technical solutions that are experimental, expensive, and too late; failed court challenges; and political giveaways.