



## Ontario Election 2022 Candidate Survey Results

Immigration is important to community and economic development. Ahead of the June 2022 Provincial Election, the Immigration Partnership asked all election candidates in Waterloo Region to share their responses to four questions of importance on immigration. The following responses were received from candidates.

If you have any questions about the survey contact:  
[ImmigrationPartnership@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:ImmigrationPartnership@regionofwaterloo.ca).

### Candidate questions

1. Ontario's health care system needs major investment in infrastructure and people to meet the needs of a population that growing and changing through immigration. Internationally trained doctors and nurses are ready to work but can't because of regulatory barriers. Significant investments in health equity measures like interpretation are needed so that diverse populations get the care they need – at least \$250,000 in additional funding is needed just for this in Waterloo Wellington this year. Will you support investments that meet these pressing community needs?
2. Immigration has grown significantly in recent years. Many immigrants continue to experience barriers to accessing meaningful work due to regulatory barriers, lack of Canadian work experience, perceived language barriers and more. Will you support investment in localised employment supports to help employers and immigrants overcome these challenges?
3. Racism and discrimination continue to negatively impact the economic, social and psychological health and wellbeing of immigrants and others in Waterloo Region. Will you support re-establishment of the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate and significant funding for community-based anti-racism initiatives?

## Cambridge

### Carla Johnson (Green Party)

1. Yes. The Green Party of Ontario (GPO) is dedicated to creating a robust system of primary care. • Support a publicly funded, publicly delivered healthcare system and oppose further privatisation of care. • Expand access to family health teams in communities across the province and increase opportunities for physicians to join team-based models of care. Include a diverse array of healthcare providers in the teams to ensure a holistic, connected, comprehensive approach to health. • Increase options for primary care, such as community health centres and nurse-practitioner-led clinics, to ensure access to non-urgent 24/7 care. • Fast-track credential approvals for 15,000 international healthcare workers, including nurses and personal support workers.
2. Yes. The GPO knows there is work to be done to make Ontario a place where everyone belongs. Still today, racialized communities, women, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and people with disabilities face disproportionately more barriers in accessing quality health care, economic opportunities, and within the justice system. Inequity has many faces. It comes in the form of unconscious bias and overt racism, gender based gaps in pay and opportunity, and neglect of those that must deal with physical and neurodiverse challenges. Ontario Greens are committed to building a more accessible and equitable Ontario. We have a lot of work ahead of us if we want to create a common future that is fair, just and caring. • Create policies that support farming by experienced farmers among new Canadians, and the succession of farms to a younger generation of farmers. • Fast-track credential approvals for 15,000 international healthcare workers, including nurses and personal support workers.
3. Yes. The GPO is committed to fight to eradicate systemic racism. • Fully fund the Anti-Racism Directorate, reversing the recent cuts. • Require anti-racism and anti-oppression training for all public sector employees and legislators. • Require the Ontario Public Service to commit to eliminate racism and discrimination, conduct random external audits, data collection and reporting, and establish a safe harassment and discrimination reporting system for staff. • Pass the Our London Family Act to change the way we address Islamophobia in Ontario. • Ensure Indigenous communities are served by Indigenous-led child welfare providers to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in provincial care. • Address the overrepresentation of Black children in provincial care by the development of frameworks to provide culturally appropriate services to Black children, youth and families. Identify and address existing standards and structures that continue to harm Black families. • Provide annual reports on the number and proportion of Black and Indigenous children who are in care, and establish

an independent office to investigate claims of unfair treatment by case workers called in to assess a child's circumstances.

**Marjorie Knight (New Democratic Party)**

1. Yes, our community urgently needs significant funding to strengthen our healthcare system and improve the quality of care for everyone in our community. The Ontario NDP has a plan to prioritize a system to recognize the skills and credentials of foreign-educated workers, with a focus on health care. We'll immediately pass NDP MPP Doly Begum's Fairness for Ontario's Internationally Trained Workers Act, which addresses accreditation barriers for internationally trained professionals. We'll create a job-matching program to guarantee internationally trained physicians get experience in Ontario and make it easier for internationally trained nurses to have their clinical experiences recognized. As MPP, I will champion the need to expand access to culturally competent care. I commit to improving culturally responsive care when it comes to accessing seniors care and mental health care in the region and across Ontario.
2. Yes. Workers deserve good jobs that pay the bills and lead to stable careers. No one should face discrimination when they apply for a job. I commit to working with other levels to ensure new Canadians are able to seamlessly move into jobs, and start their careers in Canada. I agree we need to invest in employment supports. These need to be culturally appropriate resources that are inclusive and welcoming. Lastly, we need to ensure that people have access to good quality jobs. Far too many Ontarians rely on temporary gigs or freelancing to make ends meet. These jobs are more precarious, less secure, and pay less than traditional work – temp workers are more than 200 per cent more likely to be killed or injured on the job and are often left without benefits, making them vulnerable to predatory employment practices. New Democrats have a strong plan to fix how workers are treated and compensated, and we'll guarantee jobs with better pay, benefits and security.
3. Absolutely. The Ontario NDP has committed to restoring the provincial Anti-Racism Directorate. The cuts made by the current government to the Directorate dismantled its working groups, even as organized hate continues to spread. We will appoint a minister responsible for anti-racism and fully fund the Anti-Racism Directorate into a full secretariat. We will also increase funding and support to community organizations that are already doing anti-racism work. I believe we must move beyond words to concrete, meaningful action to tear down systemic racism and eradicate white supremacy and all forms of hate in Ontario. This is an issue I feel passionately about. I am the co-founder of Rhythm and Blues a celebration of black history and culture that acknowledges the many accomplishments and contributions of members of African-Canadian communities

in Cambridge and across Canada. An important goal of our group is to provide a safe engaging space to empower, inform and inspire the Black community in Cambridge. I am proud of the bills New Democrats have tabled in Queen's Park in support of racial justice, including the Racial Equity in Education Act, brought forward by Laura Mae Lindo. This act would embed equity language into the legislation that shapes Ontario's education systems, in order to fight systemic anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and anti-Asian racism in primary, secondary and post-secondary schools.

## Kitchener Centre

### Wayne Mak (Green Party)

1. Absolutely. We need to invest in people, and that includes our healthcare infrastructure. We have some of the lowest beds per capita in the province. We support an additional facility in this public health unit, and fast-tracking credential approvals for 15,000 international healthcare workers.
2. Yes. As part of our climate plan, the Ontario Greens are proposing to give 60,000 students a year of free college tuition for Climate Economy skills plus a year of guaranteed work for targeted groups when they graduate. Upon targeted groups include new immigrants, racialized communities, indigenous communities, and women. This would help Ontario become world leaders in the Climate Economy, instead of playing catch up.
3. Yes. The Green Party of Ontario's platform calls to fully fund the Anti-Racism Directorate, reversing the recent cuts. We believe in the power of education and local community-based initiatives. The Green Party of Ontario support increasing the funding and support for education and awareness events, such as the Muslim Society of Guelph's Building Bridges Across Communities event.

## Kitchener-Conestoga

### Karen Meissner (New Democratic Party)

1. Thousands of internationally trained physicians and nurses face massive barriers to getting licensed in Ontario, and getting the local work experience they need to qualify and find employment in their field. The Ontario NDP has a concrete plan to recruit, retain, and return thousands of nurses and PSWs province-wide, and remove

employment barriers to internationally educated health care workers. We commit to expediting recognition of nursing credentials of 15,000 internationally trained nurses so they can get to work in their field faster, and we'll create a job-matching program to guarantee internationally trained physicians get local experience. On health equity: the Ontario NDP's plan to transform long-term, home and community care includes ensuring our elders and seniors have access to care that is personal and familiar, with staff and practices that reflect their distinct cultures and languages. We'll create culturally appropriate resources and training for home and community care programs.

2. Ontario is home to people from around the world, many of whom come seeking safety, security, and a better life. New Canadians make our province great. But too often they are denied the supports they need. We'll expand family reunification and expand the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program to attract more skilled immigrants to Ontario. We'll create a language access strategy, and consult affected communities to implement this province-wide strategy in our first mandate. We'll promote awareness of existing language service options through a "language services available here" campaign and proclaim February 22 a Day of Language Access.
3. For years, Liberal and Conservative governments have failed to take concrete, ongoing action to address the crises of systemic discrimination, racism, white supremacy and organized hate. The Ford government has only made things worse, cutting Ontario's Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD), dismantling its working groups and looking the other way as organized hate continues to spread. An Ontario NDP government will make the investments and do the work to dismantle structural racism in every sector in Ontario and push back against the rising tide of hate, informed by the lived experiences of, and in collaboration with, Black, Indigenous and racialized communities, as well as Muslim and Jewish communities. An Ontario NDP government will implement a provincial anti-racism strategy, to be informed by race-based data collection across all provincial ministries. We will appoint a minister responsible for anti-racism and fully fund the Anti-Racism Directorate into a full secretariat, and we will adequately fund and support community organizations that are already doing anti-racism work. We will establish an Ontario Anti-Racism Advisory and Advocacy Council that meets regularly with the minister responsible for anti-racism. For too long, anti-racism work has been separate from the needs of community and wholly dependent on the whims of the government of the day. An Ontario NDP government would establish a permanent Council that would ensure racialized communities have a seat at the table and a say about government policies that impact their lives. The Council would comprise of representatives nominated by community organizations and report publicly on their recommendations. While the previous Liberal government failed to build something that would last, and the Conservatives slashed funding to anti-racism work, an Ontario NDP government would invest in ongoing anti-racism work.

### **Melanie Van Alphen (Liberal)**

1. Ontario's health care system is in dire need of new infrastructure, especially in Waterloo Region where the population is growing exponentially. An Ontario Liberal government is committed to redeveloping Waterloo Region Hospitals to increase the number of hospital beds by 20%. Hiring internationally-trained health professionals is a commitment from the Ontario Liberal platform. We will do this by replacing unnecessary requirements for Canadian experience and shift the focus to competency-based assessments. As an MPP, I would meet with community members, health care professionals, and administrators to listen to the specific concerns of the region and townships and advocate for those needs at Queen's Park.
2. People should be able to get the skills and jobs they want. That's why an Ontario Liberal government is committed to creating a \$1 billion fund to create new programs that offer on-the-job training and ensure that these training programs are flexible to meet the evolving needs of the job market. The Ontario Liberal government also has a plan to transform the immigration system in Ontario by implementing a dedicated Immigration Minister to support newcomers who come to work in their fields and creating a pathway to permanent residency for international graduates who invest in or purchase a local business. If elected, I would connect with local groups that support our immigrant communities so that I can advocate for their needs at Queen's Park.
3. Racism and discrimination are pressing issues. Anti-racism programs need full funding and we will reverse the cuts that the previous government made. We'll also refresh Ontario's 2017 Anti-Black Racism Strategy which was developed by the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate. The Ontario Liberals will also create a stand-alone Minister responsible for anti-racism to ensure these priorities are achieved. We'll also provide \$5 million to Black historical sites and community centres and \$10 million in grants to help support Black entrepreneurs and small businesses.

## **Waterloo**

### **Catherine Fife (New Democratic Party)**

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