

**LAMBTON-KENT-MIDDLESEX CANDIDATES**

<b>NDP</b>	<b>Vanessa Benoit</b>	<b>Responded</b>
<b>Liberal</b>		
<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Monte McNaughton</b>	<b><i>Did not respond</i></b>
<b>Green</b>	<b>Wanda Dickey</b>	<b><i>Did not respond</i></b>

**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

**Does your party’s platform have an official policy position on gender-based violence?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Gender-based violence is a broad, multifaceted issue. What facets of it do you see as a priority to address within your community?**

<b>NDP</b>	<p>Gender based violence is experienced by women across the province but also here in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex. Indigenous women, women with disabilities, trans women, low-income or racialized women or any women, including those living in more isolated rural areas, might be more at risk. Creating and maintaining shelters and sexual assault centres that are accessible, and that are specifically equipped to bridge cultural differences is key to the success of supporting survivors. The Ontario NDP is committed to applying an intersectional gender lens and also a culturally specific lens to all government programs, policy, and legislation, including those directed at ending gender-based violence and supporting survivors. We know that a dire shortage of affordable housing is keeping women in shelter longer. We will properly fund women’s shelters and transitional housing and will set aside a portion of the 100,000 units of affordable housing we are building for women and their families escaping violence. Fear of losing their job can prevent women from leaving their abusers, and we are committed to funding 10 days of paid leave to employees escaping violence and ensuring they can access additional leave if they need it without repercussion. We will improve women’s economic security by increasing the minimum wage to \$20 by 2026, providing 10 paid sick days, and ending the misclassification of gig and contract workers. We will increase compensation for care workers, the majority of whom are women,</p>
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	by repealing Bill 124, and increasing wages for PSWs and childcare workers. We will also double ODSP rates by our second year in office, beginning with an immediate 20 percent increase to social assistance. To help survivors heal from the trauma of gender-based violence, the Ontario NDP’s plan for Universal, Publicly Funded Mental Health Care will offer no-cost counselling and therapy for all Ontarians, ensuring public access to psychotherapy for the approximately 500,000 Ontarians who do not have access to counselling and therapy services through an insurance plan. The NDP will implement the recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee to prevent more Ontario women and children from dying at the hands of an intimate partner.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**RACISM AND OPPRESSION**

**Racist and xenophobic violence and discrimination against Asian people has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Do you believe that anti-Asian racism is a pressing issue in your riding and the London-Middlesex community?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Does your party have a plan to address anti-Asian racism in Canada?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Do you have any policy priorities that you feel would effectively address anti-Asian racism?**

<b>NDP</b>	In 2021, the Ontario NDP tabled legislation to declare May 10 a Day of Action on Anti-Asian Racism. We will implement a province-wide anti-racism strategy that specifically addresses the rise in anti-Asian hate and works to dismantle organized hate groups and systemic discrimination. We will appoint a minister for anti-racism and establish a fully funded, independent and empowered Anti-Racism Secretariat to take the lead on this critical work. We will also establish a permanent Ontario Anti-Racism Advisory and Advocacy Council that meets regularly with the minister responsible and ensures that racialized communities have a seat at the table and are involved in developing government policies that affect their lives. We will mandate race-based data collection across all provincial ministries; create a real COVID-19 equity plan that ensures the hardest hit communities – including Asian and Black communities, and the essential workers who are often racialized – get the respect and direct financial support they deserve to recover from the pandemic. We will implement an anti-racism strategy in our schools and post-secondary institutions that addresses and fights anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and all forms of systemic racism, so that all children and students feel welcome and safe. We will set out clear, consistent definitions of racism and anti-racism and standard policies around racial equity training for education workers, procedures for reporting incidents of racism and resources for students who experience racism. We will continue the long-overdue work of ending streaming in Ontario so that no student is put at a disadvantage due to systemic racism, and every student has the opportunity to succeed. The Ontario NDP, working in partnership with the National Council of Canadian Muslims and Muslim leaders in London and across the province, tabled Our London Family Act, which sets out concrete actions to combat Islamophobia, organized hate, racism, and white supremacy. We will continue to support and advance legislation that protects communities from xenophobic attacks, and pledge to dismantle white supremacist organizations currently operating in Ontario. We will also introduce mandatory anti-oppression and anti-bias training for all public employees and legislators. We will adequately fund and support community organizations that are currently engaged in anti-racism work.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Anti-Black racism is prevalent in Canadian society from the senseless murders of Black people by police, to the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on Black communities. Does your party have a plan to address anti-Black racism in Canada?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Do you have any policy priorities that you feel would effectively address anti-Black racism?**

<b>NDP</b>	<p>We will recognize anti-Black racism as a public health crisis. We will implement a province-wide anti-racism strategy that specifically addresses anti-Black racism and works to dismantle organized hate groups and systemic discrimination. We will appoint a minister for anti-racism and establish a fully-funded, independent and empowered Anti-Racism Secretariat to take the lead on this critical work. We will also establish a permanent Ontario Anti-Racism Advisory and Advocacy Council that meets regularly with the minister responsible and ensures that racialized communities have a seat at the table and are involved in developing government policies that affect their lives. We will mandate race-based data collection across all provincial ministries; create a real COVID-19 equity plan that ensures the hardest hit communities – including Asian and Black communities, and the essential workers who are often racialized – get the respect and direct financial support they deserve to recover from the pandemic. We will implement an anti-racism strategy in our schools and post-secondary institutions that addresses and fights anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism, anti-semitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of systemic racism, so that all children and students feel welcome and safe. We will set out clear, consistent definitions of racism and anti-racism and standard policies around racial equity training for education workers, procedures for reporting incidents of racism and resources for students who experience racism. We will continue the long-overdue work of ending streaming in Ontario so that no student is put at a disadvantage due to systemic racism, and every student has the opportunity to succeed. The Ontario NDP, working in partnership with the National Council of Canadian Muslims and Muslim leaders in London and across the province, tabled Our London Family Act, which sets out concrete actions to combat Islamophobia, organized hate, racism and white supremacy. We will continue to support and advance legislation that protects communities from xenophobic attacks, and pledge to dismantle white supremacist organizations currently operating in Ontario. We also introduce mandatory anti-oppression and anti-bias training for all public employees and legislators. We will adequately fund and support community organizations that are currently engaged in anti-racism work.</p>
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**What does the phrase “defunding the police” mean to you? Does your party support this call to action?**

<b>NDP</b>	<p>Every Ontarian deserves to live in a safe community, where help is available if they need it, and nobody is treated unfairly, with prejudice or violence, by those in authority. Many Black, Indigenous, and racialized people fear that an interaction with police can mean life-threatening violence. This must end. Governments have neglected to take action on systemic racism and discrimination in our justice system and allowed police oversight to weaken. Liberal and Conservative governments have cut community programs and supports, cut mental health and addictions services, and failed to address the homelessness crisis. The result of all of this has been especially devastating for Black, Indigenous and racialized people and their communities. The Ontario NDP has a plan to put mental health supports at the centre of community safety, end unlawful and unauthorized use of force by police and ensure police are accountable for their actions, and invest in strong community supports for Black,</p>
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	<p>racialized, and Indigenous communities. We will restore community trust by ensuring that police oversight bodies are effective, responsive, and truly independent and transparent, including the SIU, so that the system is accountable to communities. We will fund and implement alternative first responders in cases of mental health and addictions crises, homelessness and school discipline calls. We will ensure alternative first responders are trained in antiracism, anti-oppression, de-escalation tactics, and culturally responsive care. We will truly end the racist, discriminatory practice of carding, and destroy the data that has been collected through carding. We will bring all levels of government together to create a provincial strategy to address gun violence and its impacts on communities. We will invest to address the root causes of gun violence, including better supports for communities, jobs and opportunities for youth, and affordable housing.</p>
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Following the unspeakable anti-Muslim hatred and terrorism that took place in London in 2021, a conversation was reignited regarding anti-Muslim hate. Does your party have a plan to address anti-Muslim hate in Canada??**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Do you have any policy priorities that you feel would effectively address anti-Muslim hate??**

<b>NDP</b>	<p>We will immediately pass Our London Family Act, which sets out concrete steps to combat anti-Muslim hate. The bill was introduced by the Ontario NDP, in partnership with the National Council of Canadian Muslims and Muslim leaders in London and across the province, and sets out concrete actions to tackle Islamophobia, organized hate, racism and white supremacy. These include launching a provincial review of hate crimes in Ontario, tools for Ontario schools to combat all forms of racism, safe zones around religious institutions which are often targets of hate and intimidation and preventing white supremacist groups from registering as societies. We will implement a province-wide anti-racism strategy that specifically addresses anti-Muslim hate and works to dismantle organized hate groups and systemic discrimination. We will appoint a minister for anti-racism and establish a fully-funded, independent and empowered Anti-Racism Secretariat to take the lead on this critical work. We will also establish a permanent Ontario Anti-Racism Advisory and Advocacy Council that meets regularly with the minister responsible and ensures that racialized communities have a seat at the table and are involved in developing government policies that affect their lives. We will mandate race-based data collection across all provincial ministries and create a</p>
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	<p>real COVID-19 equity plan that ensures the hardest hit communities – including Asian and Black communities, and the essential workers who are often racialized – get the respect and direct financial support they deserve to recover from the pandemic. We will implement an anti-racism strategy in our schools and post-secondary institutions that addresses and fights anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of systemic racism, so that all children and students feel welcome and safe. We will set out clear, consistent definitions of racism and anti-racism and standard policies around racial equity training for education workers, procedures for reporting incidents of racism and resources for students who experience racism. We will continue the long-overdue work of ending streaming in Ontario so that no student is put at a disadvantage due to systemic racism, and every student has the opportunity to succeed. We also introduce mandatory anti-oppression and anti-bias training for all public employees and legislators. We will adequately fund and support community organizations that are currently engaged in anti-racism work.</p>
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Bill 86, also known as the “Our London Family” Act failed to get support in Queens Park prior to the election. The Bill, created by the NDP and in conjunction with the National Council of Canadian Muslims focused on fighting Islamophobia in the wake of the hate motivated attack in London that killed four members of the Afzaal family. Please share with us your thoughts on this Bill, and what you would do differently to pass legislation that addresses anti-Muslim hate.**

<b>NDP</b>	<p>In the wake of the horrific hate-motivated murder of the Afzaal family that devastated our community and Muslims across the country, the passage of Our London Family Act should not have been a partisan issue. The Ontario NDP worked across party lines to secure support for the bill, and we were pleased that both the Liberal and Green parties agreed to expedite its passage. The Ontario NDP also engaged in good faith discussions with the Conservative government house leader and minister responsible on moving the bill through the legislative process so it could pass into law. We were deeply disappointed that the Conservatives chose to prevent the bill from being debated at second reading, and refused to call the bill before committee, effectively blocking any opportunities for legislative debate and public input. As we approach one year since the murder, London police are reporting a disturbing rise in hate-motivated incidents. It is urgent that the bill pass immediately.</p>
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**What is your plan to respond to the ‘Calls for Justice for All Governments’ from the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls?**

<b>NDP</b>	<p>We recognize that the legacy of colonialism and systemic racism have real, daily impacts on Indigenous peoples, and that reconciliation demands action, not just symbolic gestures. We are committed to working with Indigenous communities to implement the calls to justice of the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Women and Girls (MMIWG) in a community-led process, and to working with First Nations in a true government-to-government relationship to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We will uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and apply it to provincial laws. We will ensure that school curriculum includes the full, rich story of Indigenous peoples, the lasting impacts of colonialism and residential schools, and the need for reconciliation. We will establish the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a provincial statutory holiday. We will establish a provincial strategy to address the suicide crisis among First Nations youth, and work with the federal government to ensure targeted funding to improve mental health, on and off reserve. We will create a for-Indigenous-by-Indigenous Housing strategy in partnership with Indigenous-led housing providers and the federal government, and work with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities to transform and establish community control of child welfare. We will support expanding primary health care services to meet the unique needs of Indigenous peoples, including training more community health workers from northern Treaty communities. We will restore the Indigenous Culture Fund to strengthen opportunities for Indigenous artists. We will support and work with First Nations to identify burial site locations of children at Indian residential schools, and commission a monument to recognize the victims of the Indian residential school system in accordance with TRC Call to Action 82.</p>
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**ANTI OPPRESSIVE PRACTICES**

**Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Do you have any policy priorities that you feel would make sex work safer and/or prevent the need for survival-based sex work?**

<b>NDP</b>	Rather than criminalizing sex work and passing laws that make working conditions more dangerous for sex workers, we need a harm reduction and human rights strategy that protects the health and safety of sex workers, makes their lives safer, and removes barriers to sex workers accessing the health care and other community and social supports.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Human trafficking is a major concern in our community. However, sex work is often incorrectly conflated with human trafficking. Knowing that sex work and human trafficking are not the same issue, how does your party plan to address human trafficking, including labour trafficking and sex trafficking in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights and safety of sex workers?**

<b>NDP</b>	We will apply an intersectional gender equity lens to human trafficking, with a focus on ending the trafficking of minors and exploited persons while ensuring that sex workers are not driven into more dangerous working conditions. We will also address the root causes that make marginalized and vulnerable people vulnerable to trafficking, by reforming the child welfare system, increasing social assistance rates, removing barriers to employment and training programs, increasing access to educational opportunities, investing in affordable and supportive housing, expanding mental health and addictions services, bringing mental health care, dental care and pharmacare under OHIP, increasing the minimum wage, and implementing a provincial anti-racism strategy that addresses and fights anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and all forms of systemic racism.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	



**Does your party have a plan to address the crisis of homelessness and lack of affordable housing?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Social housing waitlists are growing in London-Middlesex. What initiatives would your party implement to ensure that more people have access to social housing in a timely manner?**

<b>NDP</b>	Through a new public agency, Housing Ontario, we will build 250,000 new affordable and non-market homes over 10 years. This includes building 100,000 new affordable homes, charging rents that will be geared to income, as well as building at least 150,000 new non-market homes, charging below-market rents, with affordability enhanced further through inclusionary zoning policies, access to public land, and income supports. Housing Ontario would have a mandate not just to facilitate the development of housing but to establish livable mixed income communities – partnering with co-ops and non-profits to achieve these goals. We will also repair 260,000 existing social housing units, provide income supports to 311,000 tenant households, and build 60,000 new supportive housing units. Through Housing Ontario, we will purchase and rehabilitate existing privately-owned rental buildings, converting them to non-market, permanently protecting these tenants from speculation and housing financialization. We will protect tenants by bringing back real rent control, ending vacancy decontrol, and fixing the problems with the Landlord-Tenant Board to crack down on exploitative landlords, so people aren't forced out of affordable housing and onto waitlists for social housing.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Housing people who have experienced violence and trauma requires more than just a home. Supports to ensure their success are critical. What wrap-around services (universal basic income, housing stability workers, food security, financial literacy, etc.) are you in favour of supporting and funding?**

<b>NDP</b>	We will invest in 60,000 units of supportive housing. We will double social assistance rates by our second year in office. We will create a provincial food strategy that addresses food insecurity. We will ensure that every Ontarian can access counselling and psychotherapy with their OHIP card.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Do you believe that the justice system is trauma-informed? (Being trauma informed involves recognizing the prevalence of trauma, understanding the long-term effects of trauma, and ensuring that any interventions/actions do not re-traumatize those who have had traumatic experiences.)**

<b>NDP</b>	No
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Do you have any policy priorities that you feel would make the justice system in Ontario and its services equitable, accessible, and fair for survivors of sexual violence and family violence?**

<b>NDP</b>	In addition to the measures listed below, I would personally advocate for the justice system to find a way to address situations like that of Rebecca Crane, whose trial was thrown out because the backlogged justice system had failed to give her attacker a timely trial. The justice system needs to be accountable for providing a timely trial not only for the accused but also and especially for the victim, and there is no way that slow justice should result in no justice for a survivor of sexual assault. ( <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/woman-sex-assaults-accused-jordan-decision-1.6313369">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/woman-sex-assaults-accused-jordan-decision-1.6313369</a> ) Ontario’s family law system has been in crisis for more than a decade. Community Legal Clinics are being impeded from doing their vital work — helping with ODSP applications and appeals, helping women get child support payments from absent parents. Specialty Legal Clinics, advocating for at-risk groups, need support. Duty counsel in criminal courthouses is critically understaffed, resulting in significant court delays
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	and worse outcomes for all parties. Legal Aid certificates, for criminal and family cases, are available to very few people, and even then people struggle to find lawyers who will accept them. Costly and lengthy cases result in a significant number of people appearing before the court without legal representation, while others abandon their rights and compensation altogether because the system is so clogged. The NDP will reverse Doug Ford’s 30 percent cut to Legal Aid and start fixing the inadequacies of Ontario’s legal aid system. We have consistently advocated for increased funding for the Family Court Support Worker program, and will increase funding for summary legal advice, unbundled legal services, and public interest litigation, and ensure more people qualify for legal assistance. We will increase resources for criminal diversion programs and dedicated diversion courts to ensure people with mental health and addiction issues, as well as young and underhoused people, are not caught in a self-perpetuating cycle of criminality. We will fix Ontario’s broken tribunal system by creating an independent Adjudicative Tribunal Justice Council to ensure tribunals are fully staffed with impartial expert adjudicators and vacancies are filled in a timely manner.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Addiction and the criminalization of drugs often traps people in abusive cycles. Do you support the expansion of harm reduction services - which may include needle exchanges, withdrawal facilities, consumption sites, safe supply, decriminalization and other initiatives - for individuals who use drugs?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**What commitments would you make and what initiatives would your party implement to expand harm reduction services?**

<b>NDP</b>	The opioid crisis continues to ruin lives and devastate families across Ontario, with a significant increase in opioid-related deaths during the pandemic. The NDP is committed to investing in mental health and addictions supports so Ontarians everywhere in the province can get the care they need when they need it. We will immediately declare the opioid crisis a public health emergency. We will invest in addiction rehabilitation, detox centres, and harm reduction strategies equitably across the province. We will provide an 8 percent funding boost for frontline mental health and addictions agencies and ensure ongoing sustainable
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	<p>funding. We will remove the cap Doug Ford placed on supervised consumption sites, expedite approvals for supervised consumption sites in the north, and work to ensure safer alternatives to the current toxic and deadly supply of drugs available on the street. We will also work with the federal government to reduce the stigma of drug addiction and decriminalize personal drug use, so people can get the medical help they need. We will invest \$10 million more into mobile crisis services and \$7 million more for safe bed programs to support mobile crisis teams. We will work towards establishing 24-hour civilian community mobile teams across the province to operate in partnership with Mobile Crisis Response Teams and respond to low-risk crisis situations. We will address the social determinants of health, such as poverty and lack of affordable housing, for people living with an opioid addiction by doubling ODSP rates by our second year in office and building 60,000 units of supportive housing.</p>
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**COMMUNITY SPACES**

**This past fall reports of up to 30 sexual assaults on campus at Western University were made by several students. The aftermath of Orientation Week opened up a conversation about sexual violence on campus, with hundreds of students sharing their experience of gender-based and sexual violence on campus. Does your party believe that it is your responsibility as elected officials to hold publicly funded universities accountable for the gender-based and sexual violence that occurs on their campuses?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Do you have any policy priorities that you feel would effectively address gender-based and sexual violence on post-secondary campuses?**

<b>NDP</b>	<p>I personally was working on a master’s in an on-campus office at Western last fall, and as a survivor I found it very difficult to deal with what appeared to be a mixed degree of support for the issues on campus. It was difficult to balance the demands of the studies that I was there for, the clear need for advocacy about the sexual violence taking place on campus, and the desire to keep one’s most difficult memories private in a professional environment. I support the SOGS at Western University’s work to make questionnaires for university student applicants mandatory that would ask pointed questions to help weed out potential aggressors from being admitted, and the student and faculty supported initiatives to make sensitization education about sexual violence and survivors mandatory for all employees. As an NDP MPP, I will improve accountability for campus sexual assault policies and use a whole-of-government approach to end gender-based violence on campuses, in workplaces, and in the community through education, prevention, and training. We will require post-secondary institutions to update their policies on sexual violence reporting to reflect calls from survivors and advocates, support survivors, and protect them from further harm. We will fund culturally competent, trauma-informed services, investing to ensure that post-secondary institutions have properly funded, survivor-centred services and staff. I think it would also be important to consult as much as possible with existing advocacy groups on campus to see where our efforts can be most helpful. In April 2022, the Ontario NDP introduced the Safe Night Out Act, which requires mandatory evidence-based, trauma-informed sexual violence and harassment prevention training for servers, security guards and supervisors in licensed premises, and improves health and safety protections respecting workplace harassment, workplace sexual harassment and workplace violence.</p>
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Everyone has a right to anti-oppressive and responsive healthcare, whether they live in remote, rural or urban communities, have citizenship, live with disabilities, practice sex work or harm reduction, identify as women or LGBTQ+, and/or have access to transportation, childcare or a reliable internet connection. Does your party believe that survivors face barriers to accessing healthcare?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

## Do you have any policy and funding priorities that address barriers to accessing healthcare for survivors?

<b>NDP</b>	<p>I would like any survivor of gender-based violence in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex to know that my office is a safe space and part of my job as an MPP is to help them connect with help in our community. Poverty, systemic racism, homophobia and transphobia, sexism, and ableism impact the quality of health care Ontarians receive. To improve health equity, the NDP will collect race-based data in all areas of health care to identify and fix the systemic inequities in health care. We will recognize anti-Black racism as a public health crisis and establish a systematic review of the reality that Black Canadians are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS, mental health issues, heart disease, hypertension, Sickle Cell, and stroke. We will pass legislation to improve care for Sickle Cell patients in crisis. We will immediately begin work to improve access to gender-affirming procedures and surgeries and work to ensure full coverage of transition drugs and medications. We will pass the Gender Affirming Health Care Advisory Committee Act, work with advocates and health care providers to reduce barriers to care for transition-related and gender-confirming surgeries, and ensure health care decisions are in line with standards of care established by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). We will remove the cost of medications required to treat and prevent HIV and make PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) free. We will make long-term care 2SLGBTQIA+ affirming so people can always live with Pride. We will prioritize health care as an essential sector in Francophone communities, ensuring the Ministry of Health makes French language access a key part of its planning. We will expand the number of community health centres and long-term care homes by and for Francophones and aim to serve all designated areas offering mental health and addiction support services in French. We will work with Indigenous primary health care organizations to expand services to more communities, ensure health care delivery is culturally sensitive and that Indigenous health professionals are recruited and properly compensated.</p>
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

## Does your party believe that there needs to be further education, training implementation and accountability in our healthcare systems to support survivors?

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**Do you have any policy and funding priorities that address these gaps?**

<b>NDP</b>	We will apply a gender-based analysis plus framework to ensure that all government programs, policies, and legislation are inclusive of all Ontarians. trauma-informed, survivor-centric We will provide an immediate eight per cent funding boost for frontline mental health and addictions agencies that overwhelmed with the increase in demand for services.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**The average shelter is 45 years old. These shelters are not geared to provide trauma- and violence-informed safe spaces. 80% of VAW shelters are in need of some form of repairs and renovations, and almost half (46%) are not able to afford them. Will you commit to refresh, update, and renew every shelter in Ontario, and construct new ones where needed to accommodate population growth?**

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

**What concrete commitments are you willing to make?**

<b>NDP</b>	We will increase funding by 30 percent to Ontario’s sexual assault and rape crisis centres and ensure women’s health facilities are adequately funded.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

The majority (64%) of VAW shelters and Sexual Assault Centres do not receive an annual cost of living increase from their main government funder. Does your party support guaranteed, annual funding increases that either meet or exceed the rate of inflation?

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	

What concrete commitments are you willing to make?

<b>NDP</b>	We will ensure that women's social service organizations, including VAW shelters and Sexual Assault Centres, have stable funding, so that they can focus on supporting their communities instead of having to continually apply for funding and rely on fundraising to deliver vital services.
<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	