

**LONDON NORTH CENTRE CANDIDATES**

<b>NDP</b>	<b>Terrence Kernaghan</b>	<b>Responded</b>
<b>Liberal</b>	<b>Kate Graham</b>	<b>Responded</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Jerry Pribil</b>	<b><i>Did not respond</i></b>
<b>Green</b>	<b>Carol Dyck</b>	<b>Responded</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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

**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>	Thousands of women and children in London and across Ontario seek out protection daily from shelters or sexual assault centres to escape violence and abuse. Many are Indigenous women, women with disabilities, trans women, low-income or racialized women, who experience different levels of risk and face different barriers to accessing services. The Ontario NDP is committed to applying an intersectional gender lens to all government programs, policy, and legislation, including those directed at ending gender-based violence and supporting GBV 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, by repealing Bill 124, and increasing wages for PSWs and child care 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
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	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>	<p>I agree that there are many facets to gender-based violence.</p> <p>The Ontario Liberal Plan recognizes the need to address the following priorities quickly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase funding for equity-deserving organizations including those tackling gender-based violence</li> <li>- Create clear rules around disclosure and the ‘right to know’ of an intimate partners’ history of abusive behaviour or domestic violence</li> <li>- Build 3,800 more supportive homes for women fleeing domestic abuse and 2,000 supportive homes for 2SLGBTQ+ youth that meet unique needs through our housing plan</li> <li>- Mandate all hospitals have sexual assault evidence kits available</li> <li>- Ensure 2SLGBTQ+ young people feel welcome and supported in schools – including in an affirming, updated curriculum</li> <li>- Provide \$20 million toward an 2SLGBTQ+ Action Plan with funding for community centres, health organizations, Prides and others groups that serve the community</li> <li>- Provide 10 paid sick days for all workers</li> <li>- Ban employer-required doctor’s notes</li> <li>- Create a package of high-quality, affordable workplace benefits for all workers</li> <li>- Implement universal \$10 a day for licensed child care</li> <li>- Make child care discounts retroactive, giving parents \$2,750 per child</li> </ul> <p>These actions will not eliminate gender-based violence but they will make a positive difference. More work will need to be done.</p>
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	We currently have insufficient funding directed towards and a lack of space available to help those facing gender-based violence and/or domestic violence. We need the provincial government to provide greater financial support to emergency shelters, transitional housing, mental health care, etc. In addition, we need greater funding for education in schools and universities to prevent gender-based violence.

## 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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

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

<b>NDP</b>	Yes
<b>Liberal</b>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Declined to answer

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

<b>NDP</b>	<p>In 2021, as MPP, Terence Kernaghan co-sponsored legislation to declare May 10 a Day of Action on Anti-Asian Racism. The Ontario NDP 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 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>	<p>Racism is a serious problem in Ontario and we know that the number of hate crimes rose during the pandemic – especially toward Asian, Black, Jewish and Muslim Ontarians. We see this in London in the most recent report to the London Police Services Board on hate crimes and incidents, which showed a significant increase in 2021. Ontario Liberals have a plan to address all forms of racism in the province. Please see Question [re: Defunding the Police] for a more comprehensive answer to this question.</p>
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Declined to answer

**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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

**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>	<p>To address anti-Black racism specifically, an Ontario Liberal government will refresh Ontario’s 2017 Anti-Black Racism Strategy. In education, we’ll make sure Black history, literature and the contributions of Black Canadians are featured in the year-long curriculum and end streaming in schools which can segregate classrooms. 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. Please see Question [re: Defunding the Police] for more details on the Ontario Liberal plan to address racism.</p>

<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Just like dealing with anti-Asian racism, there are many priority areas to effectively address anti-Black racism. Firstly, we have to be honest with ourselves and recognize that this racism exists in Canada. We are often comparing ourselves with our neighbours to the South. Our education system should explore the history of Black Canadians in Ontario and Canada, and incorporate age appropriate critical race theory in the public school system. Furthermore, employees in hospitals, schools, government offices, universities, colleges, and other critical services should receive training in cultural sensitivity and CRT.

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

<b>NDP</b>	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, 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.
<b>Liberal</b>	Police services must be responsive to the changing needs of the communities they serve and ensure everyone feels safe. We’ll require that all police training contains appropriate content regarding de-escalation, anti-racism, cultural sensitivity and engaging with individuals experiencing mental health conditions – and provide funding to police services to deploy body cameras. To make sure police look like the communities they serve, we’ll support training and hiring more diverse police officers, such as expanding the Youth in Policing Initiative – and we’ll require police services to disclose annual statistics regarding the diversity of their officers, leadership and police service boards.
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	We currently have a system whereby the police are called to deal with issues that involve assisting those in a state of mental crisis. These situations often end in tragedy, particularly when the incident involves a BIPOC individual. We need to put more money into mental

	health services and/or specifically trained individuals to diffuse these situations and avoid the use of violence. London has been rolling out a program that has mental health specialists accompanying police on calls and it has demonstrated success. The GPO would support any policy that would eliminate the unnecessary use of violence and that would help individuals receive the supports they need. This would include increasing funding to areas/departments/organizations that focus more on the wellbeing of citizens, especially the vulnerable, and less on traditional "police" responses.
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**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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

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

<b>NDP</b>	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 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
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	<p>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>
<p><b>Liberal</b></p>	<p>Ontario Liberals commit to passing the Our London Family Act to address Islamophobia and creating new tools and strategies to combat all forms of racism. It is unacceptable that the Ford Conservatives refused to pass this legislation, which was developed by the Muslim community, including NCCM and Hikma, and supported by the Liberals, NDP and Greens. Hate and intolerance against anyone have no place in Ontario. An Ontario Liberal government will reverse the Ford Conservatives’ cuts to anti-racism programs and strengthen ways to respond to complaints in public school, health and child welfare systems, led by a stand-alone Minister. Ontario Liberals commit to improving the investigation of hate crimes with enhanced Crown Attorney units dedicated to advising police and prosecuting hate crimes. We’ll also extend the limitation period for putting forward human rights complaints from one to five years. We’ll make it an offense punishable by major fines for engaging in acts of criminal intimidation within 50 metres of churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, gurdwaras and other faith institutions and invest in their safety and security. We’ll provide new supports for students and all Ontarians to learn about the painful truth of the Holocaust and prevent the harmful spread of its denial.</p> <p>Further, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help newcomers and refugees come to and settle in Ontario;</li> <li>- Fund community grants for newcomers and diverse communities;</li> <li>- Fund local and diverse storytelling; and</li> <li>- Create standards of care for diverse Ontarians and ensure culturally competent care is available – including by having hospitals and long-term care homes collect and report on race-based data and incidents of racism.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conservative</b></p>	
<p><b>Green</b></p>	<p>Firstly, we have to pass Our London Family Act. Mike Schreiner has supported this act since its proposal; it is unconscionable that this act failed to pass before the election. Fighting Islamophobia should not be a partisan issue when Ontarians lives and security are at risk. It simply must be passed as soon as possible after the election.</p>

**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.**

<p><b>NDP</b></p>	<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</p>
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	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.
<b>Liberal</b>	An Ontario Liberal government would pass the “Our London Family” Act. Advocacy from the London community and the broader Muslim community in Ontario in support of the Bill secured support from the Liberals, NDP and Greens. In retrospect, I believe it would have been more effective to have the Liberals, NDP and Greens all co-sponsor the Bill from the outset, an approach that was discussed among the parties but not supported by the NDP. The Conservatives may have still delayed it but a multi-partisan approach would have carried more weight. I would engage the Big City Mayors’ Caucus, including Mayor Holder, to bring more pressure on the Conservative government.
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Mike Schreiner supported this act since it was first proposed. It must pass immediately following the election; protecting the lives and security of Ontario's Muslim community should not be a partisan issue. It's shameful that the act did not pass. Anti-Muslim hate is rising and is a significant problem in London. If I were elected, I would work to gain support across party lines with likeminded MPPs to ensure that partisanship does not prevent this crucial bill from going through.

**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>	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.
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<b>Liberal</b>	<p>Ontario Liberals are committed to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action by working with and learning from Indigenous peoples and First Nations, guided by the principles of self-determination, reciprocity, and mutual recognition of nationhood. Reconciliation is an opportunity to address decades of racism and discrimination that have pushed Indigenous people further behind others in Ontario. The abuse of Indigenous women and girls has resulted in multigenerational and intergenerational trauma and marginalization in the form of poverty, insecure housing or homelessness and barriers to education, employment, health care and cultural support. Colonial and patriarchal policies that displaced women from traditional roles in communities and diminished their status in society has left them vulnerable to violence. To help address injustice, Ontario Liberals will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create 22,000 new homes for off-reserve Indigenous peoples;</li> <li>- Develop a distinct housing strategy for and led by off-reserve Indigenous peoples;</li> <li>- Invest in Indigenous-led mental health supports and long-term care;</li> <li>- Mandate learning about the painful history of Canada’s residential schools and the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples;</li> <li>- Support the teaching of First Nations languages and culture;</li> <li>- Investigate and commemorate former residential school sites;</li> <li>- Get everyone access to safe, clean drinking water – ending the need for boil water advisories;</li> <li>- Restore rivers, wetlands and watersheds that Indigenous communities rely upon;</li> <li>- Streamline how land is added to First Nations reserves;</li> <li>- Invest in First Nations Public Libraries; and</li> <li>- Make the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a statutory holiday.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	<p>Our platform contains a section dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation, and is committed to work with the Federal Government to fulfill the recommendations of the report and to address systemic racism.</p>

## ANTI OPPRESSIVE PRACTICES

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

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

**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>	<p>Here are a few policy priorities that may decrease the need for survival-based sex work by building more housing, lowering the cost of essentials, or providing more income to people who are engaging in survival-based sex work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building 3,800 homes for women fleeing domestic abuse</li> <li>- Increasing ODSP and OW rates by 20% over two years</li> <li>- Building 138,000 deeply affordable homes over ten years</li> <li>- \$10 a day childcare, \$10 before and after school care, \$2,750 rebate per child in child care</li> <li>- Free menstrual products in schools, libraries and other spaces</li> <li>- Increased funding for organizations that support women and other equity-deserving groups</li> <li>- Creating clear rules about the right to know a partner’s history of abusive behaviour or domestic violence</li> <li>- Eliminating interest on OSAP loans</li> <li>- Package of portable workplace benefits that follow the person and are not tied to the employer</li> <li>- Increasing funding by \$300 million to organizations working on harm reduction, addiction and treatment and lifting the cap on consumption and treatment services</li> </ul>
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Ultimately, we need to decriminalize sex work so that sex workers are treated with dignity, and can access the social, health and legal supports they need. That being said, some may enter sex work not out of choice but out of need; we need to enact a universal basic income so that women, especially racialized women and single mothers, are not compelled to enter into sex work to feed and house themselves and their children.

**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
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	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>	An Ontario Liberal government will increase support to prevent human trafficking through training in schools, support for trafficking survivors and by bringing traffickers to justice. We need to always listen to people who are engaging in sex work and the people who work directly with them, to ensure that work to address human trafficking is effective and does not put sex workers at risk.
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	We have an enormous problem with human trafficking in SW Ontario. A large part of tackling this problem is education and awareness. Many citizens do not know how large a problem human trafficking is and/or are not aware of the signs that someone is being or has been trafficked. The provincial and federal governments need to work together to shine a light on this problem and offer remedies to help those being trafficked escape. In the case of labour trafficking, some victims may fear coming forward or seeking help due to the threat of deportation. We need to have policies in place protect the trafficked if they succeed in leaving their situation.

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

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

**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
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	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>	Ontario Liberals will invest in social, supportive and community housing services. Supportive housing pairs affordable homes with professional services and is an effective way to prevent homelessness. For instance, seniors and people with developmental disabilities can live independently with accessible help. Likewise, those struggling with mental health and addictions can live in safe environments with access to counselling. We'll provide municipal and non-profit partners with \$360 million annually to operate and improve social, supportive and community housing services – funding that will increase as 38,000 new homes are completed.
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	The Greens have committed to building 182,000 affordable community housing rental units in the next ten years, including 60,000 permanent supportive homes.

**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>	There are too many people currently experiencing homelessness. An Ontario Liberal government will work to establish housing as a fundamental human right in Ontario and provide people with safe and reliable shelter, as well as the robust wrap-around services they need to live with dignity and stability. We'll provide municipalities and housing support providers with \$100 million per year to promote a 'Housing First' approach to ending chronic homelessness that will quickly move people into independent, permanent housing with comprehensive supports. We'll fund new emergency shelter beds and drastically improve the condition of existing shelters so that there are safe and respectable options for those who need them. We'll also renovate older shelters as long-term residences and supportive housing units as people are effectively transitioned into stable housing. Ontario Liberals will relaunch the homelessness census that the Ford Conservatives scrapped to better understand people's comprehensive housing needs and issues. Ontario Liberals will also introduce legislation to bring back a demonstration of basic income that the Ford Conservatives cancelled to evaluate the life-changing impacts of giving people consistent, reliable financial support. And as a first step, we'll reverse the Ford Conservatives' cuts and increase Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) rates by 10%, followed by another 10% for ODSP recipients in 2023. We'll also make sure people receiving social assistance can keep more of their earnings by increasing the amount of income earned without impacting assistance from \$2,400 to \$6,000 per year and calculating earnings on an annual basis. And we'll replace the current complex rate structure with an inflation-protected flat rate that treats everyone equally regardless of where or how they live, and redefine "spouse" to give new couples

	receiving social assistance more support. Economic growth is a critical benchmark of Ontario’s success, but it shouldn’t be the only metric of success. Without more sophisticated tools in place, we can’t know if gains we see in GDP and productivity are shared by all Ontarians or leaving most of them further behind. We’ll adopt a quality of life framework to keep track of what counts. This framework will be consistent with the OECD Better Life Initiative and evaluate key indicators like housing affordability, wealth and income inequality, wage growth and disposable income.
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	We plan on creating 60,000 rental homes with wraparound services. We support a UBI, mental health care through OHIP, drug counselling, free tuition to help people find employment and doubling ODSP to help those who cannot work as a first step towards implementing a UBI.

**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>	No
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	No

**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>	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 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
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	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>	Although the justice system has become more trauma-informed thanks to the work of many advocates inside and outside of that system, there is still a long way to go. An Ontario Liberal government will reverse the devastating cuts to legal aid and Ontario’s tribunal system that have resulted in marginalized Ontarians being denied legal representation and justice – working to innovate the system so it is less costly, more accessible and more efficient. We’ll also make the child welfare system more responsive, flexible and sensitive to the needs of diverse communities, including more placement options and programs to support completing education. Ontarians need to feel safe in their communities – and handguns are disproportionately killing people more than any other type of firearm including in incidents of intimate partner violence. An Ontario Liberal government will work with the federal government to ban the sale, possession, transport and storage of handguns in Ontario while we advocate for a national ban, and work to take these dangerous guns off our streets through a buy-back program. The Ontario Liberal plan will also treat gun violence as a public health issue and fund trauma counselling for survivors and others affected by gun violence.
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	I will simply say that we have a long way to go in this regard. We need to reassess our justice system to find a way to support people rather than re-traumatize and criminalize them.

**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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

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

<p><b>NDP</b></p>	<p>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 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>
<p><b>Liberal</b></p>	<p>Ontario Liberals will prevent, intervene and treat opioid addiction and overdose with a \$300 million investment. We will target organized crime groups and deceptive opioid manufacturers and make life-saving harm reduction supplies and sites more available. Deaths related to opioid use and addiction have seen a staggering rise – devastating families and communities. We want to build a compassionate, nonjudgmental and supportive Ontario that aims to help those with addictions, follow evidence and reduce harm. We'll do so by investing \$300 million across the addictions sector to prevent, intervene and treat opioid addiction and overdoses – including providing an ample supply of naloxone kits, fentanyl testing strips and harm reduction supplies at pharmacies, community spaces and with first responders. An Ontario Liberal government will target organized crime groups that produce and traffic illicit drugs while ensuring those with drug-use disorders receive support and make the pharmaceutical industry and opioid manufacturers pay for deceptive marketing practices.</p>
<p><b>Conservative</b></p>	<p></p>
<p><b>Green</b></p>	<p>We would decriminalize drug use and use the funds that are currently directed towards the justice system towards harm reduction services, including safe-injection sites, mental health supports, drug addiction supports for those wishing to quit, and needle exchange programs.</p>

## 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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

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>We 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. 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>	<p>The start of the academic year was heartbreaking. I had students in my classes in tears the first week of classes. Young women, in particular, felt very afraid. They still do. It was wonderful to see so many people, students, staff, faculty, community members, unite and call for change. The provincial government can and should help. Ontario Liberals will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help colleges and universities create safe, inclusive campuses, and</li> <li>- Support campus mental health and gender-based violence prevention.</li> </ul> <p>A student's time on campus should always be enriching and engaging, so we'll give funding to colleges and universities to create safe, healthy and inclusive environments for students, including through more mental health supports and gender-based violence prevention programs.</p>



<b>Conservative</b>	Behind many of the efforts to make campuses better are student-led groups, so we'll scrap the Ford Conservatives' harmful Student Choice Initiative that unfairly targeted student groups and gave them less funding to work with.
<b>Green</b>	We need to begin education regarded gender-based and sexual violence in public schools and continue with that education in post-secondary institutions. We need to create a provincial task force to assess the full scope of the problem and create informed policies to address it. We need to reinstate Ontario's Expert Panel on Violence against Women, which was disbanded and we need to allocate more funds to sexual and gender-based violence crisis services.

**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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

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

<b>NDP</b>	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
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	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.
<b>Liberal</b>	Ontario Liberals will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mandate all hospitals have sexual assault evidence kits available</li> <li>- Fund women’s health needs such as abortion;</li> <li>- Fund women’s organizations, including those focused on gender-based violence;</li> <li>- Provide culturally competent and gender affirming health, mental health and long-term care;</li> <li>- Fully cover medications that prevent and treat HIV; and</li> <li>- Reduce wait times and barriers to gender-affirming surgeries.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Our platform contains several policies to address barriers to accessing healthcare for survivors and those with complex needs. We would support programs and services that take an intersectional approach to serve the most vulnerable in rural and urban settings. Greater detail can be found in our platform.

## 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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

## 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>	Our fully-costed platform includes significant financial commitments that address the gaps in our mental health and nursing shortages.
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	We would like to see expanded services to serve rural areas, which currently do not have sufficient mental health and addictions services to meet the needs of citizens. We recognize that the wellbeing of survivors is improved when they can access programs and help in their own communities or relatively close by.

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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

**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>	Ontario Liberals have committed to drastically improving the condition of existing shelters so that there are safe and respectable options for those who need them. We’ll also renovate older shelters as long-term residences and supportive housing units as people are effectively transitioned into stable housing.
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	The GPO has committed to 50:50 cost-sharing with municipalities to help fund shelters and other social programs. Recently these services were downloaded onto municipalities that struggle to keep up with growing demand. We believe the province must immediately take a greater lead in providing safe, healthy and secure shelters and ensuring sufficient space to meet growing needs.

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>	Yes
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Yes

## What concrete commitments are you willing to make?

<b>NDP</b>	We will ensure that women's social service organizations, including 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>	I will personally advocate for cost of living increases for this important work so the capacity of these organizations is not eroded over time.
<b>Conservative</b>	
<b>Green</b>	The GPO believes that the provincial government must increase funding to municipalities to help them cover costs and have a steady, reliable and inflation-adjusted source of income. We have committed to a 50:50 cost share model not just in this area, but in other ways to make municipalities more resilient, community-focused and inclusive.