

NDP Candidate Jo-Dee Burbach's Answers to the Provincial Candidate Questions for Climate Momentum

The Green New Democratic Deal

The reality of climate change is already here. Ontarians need to know that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the clean air, drinking water, and beautiful natural spaces of previous generations. All Ontarians deserve a prosperous, healthy future.

The Del Duca Liberals failed to take action to lower emissions and protect Ontarians from the consequences of the climate crisis, while Doug Ford has attacked Ontario's wetlands, floodplains, and green spaces as favours to his developer buddies. The Ontario NDP has a bold and practical plan to address the urgency of the climate crisis while at the same time revitalizing our economy, protecting workers, and creating millions of good, well-paying jobs for Ontarians.

Our Green New Democratic Deal will fix what previous governments broke while leaving no one in Ontario behind. For details beyond the information below, the plan can be found at <https://www.ontariondp.ca/news/ndp-releases-ontario-s-boldest-ever-climate-plan>

URBAN SPRAWL

o What is your position on the use of MZOs acquiring farmland and significant wetlands for housing and industrial development in PerthWellington?

It's not just highways where Doug Ford has put his thumb on the planning scale. The Ford government has upended the land use planning system with politically-driven Minister's Zoning Orders benefitting his buddies. Alongside, he has a new growth plan that forces municipalities to sacrifice even more precious farmland to costly and unsustainable sprawl. An NDP government will prioritize the development of walkable and transit-friendly complete communities within existing urban boundaries, and protect Ontario's remaining farmland from being lost forever to unaffordable sprawl.

The NDP will end exclusionary zoning, increasing the supply of housing options that are affordable, in complete communities where people want to live. We will do so while holding the line on costly sprawl: We will encourage responsible development within existing urban boundaries, while protecting farmland and natural heritage. This includes aligning growth with transit investments and updating zoning rules to enable the construction of more affordable "missing middle" housing, like duplexes, triplexes and townhomes.

o How will you assist Perth-Wellington communities to pursue intensification to avoid urban sprawl over agricultural and habitat land?

Ontarians are proud of our province's vast forests, pristine farmland and abundant freshwater. But these resources are increasingly at risk. In the last 100 years, the province has lost 73 per cent of its natural habitats, including forests, fields, wetlands and marshes. An NDP government will work with Indigenous peoples and the federal government, as well as community, business and environmental stakeholders, to meet Canada's 2030 target of 30% protection.

The NDP will promote sustainable, smart growth that provides people with access to complete communities, while reining in costly and unsustainable sprawl that paves over irreplaceable prime farmland and natural heritage. Complete communities are those where jobs, transit, services, recreation and shopping are all accessible and homes are affordable.

CLIMATE CHANGE

o The most recent IPCC report (UN International Panel on Climate Change) recommends a 50% reduction of GreenHouse Gas production by 2030. . Primary GHG emitters are transportation and building (along with Heavy Industry). How would you deal with this?

We'll reduce Ontario's GHG emissions by at least 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve netzero emissions by 2050, targets consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the most ambitious aspects of the Paris Agreement. We'll enshrine our GHG reduction targets into law and use a carbon budgeting process to ensure we reach them, consulting with climate scientists, workers, industry and other experts.

The independent office of the Environmental Commissioner was first created by the Ontario NDP government in 1993. An Ontario NDP government will restore this office, ensuring independent oversight over Ontario's policies to protect the environment, promote energy efficiency and fight climate change.

o How will you assist homeowners in Perth-Wellington reduce their use of fossil fuels and energy costs? What retrofit and new build strategies would you support?

Making buildings more energy efficient and conserving energy are proven ways to reduce emissions while saving Ontarians money.

The Liberals' decision to privatize Hydro One drove up the cost of electricity for regular families. Doug Ford broke his promise to Ontarians to reduce hydro rates by 12 per cent. Now, Doug Ford's plan is to spend \$118 billion of taxpayers' money to subsidize hydro while rates keep climbing. The system is broken. The Ontario NDP has a robust plan to bring down the price of hydro for families and businesses while at the same time meeting our climate goals and creating thousands of good-paying jobs here in Ontario.

The cheapest electricity is the electricity we don't use. We'll bring in an ambitious energy efficient building retrofit program to help families and businesses with the cost of retrofitting their

homes and lowering electricity bills. We will also bring a conservation-first model to energy planning in Ontario, establishing a single-window of service for energy efficiency and conservation planning, program promotion, delivery and upfront financing. As well, we plan to work with businesses to establish lower industrial rates in exchange for conservation policy wins.

The NDP will strike a panel drawing on expertise from jurisdictions across Canada that have kept electricity prices low by focusing on delivering power at cost instead of profit for private providers. This expert panel will include business and energy workers and will focus on the best ways to restore public ownership, maintain reliability and affordability.

We'll create measures to make better use of Ontario's wasted off-peak surplus by making it available for the benefit of Ontarians, and we'll take advantage of innovative new decentralized technologies to better align electricity demand and supply in real-time.

We will create an ambitious building retrofit program with the goal of retrofitting at least five per cent of Ontario buildings per year, to meet international energy efficiency standards.

o How will you support public transportation for Perth-Wellington?

We will encourage responsible development within existing urban boundaries, while protecting farmland and natural heritage from wasteful sprawl. This includes aligning growth with transit investments.

Our Green New Democratic Deal includes an ambitious plan to decarbonize the transportation sector, with investments in public transit and zero emission vehicles, and the cancellation of the costly and unnecessary Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass. This includes new provincial funding to cover 50% of the net operational costs of municipal transit, allowing local transit agencies to improve service and boost ridership. An NDP government will restore rebates for zero-emission vehicle purchases, and set a province-wide ZEV sales target of 15% by 2025, 45% by 2030, and 100% by 2035. An NDP government will also encourage active transportation, with new laws to protect vulnerable road users.

o What will you do to enable Electric Vehicle transportation for residents of Perth-Wellington?

An NDP government will restore rebates for zero-emission vehicle purchases, and set a province-wide ZEV sales target of 15% by 2025, 45% by 2030, and 100% by 2035. An NDP government will also encourage active transportation, with new laws to protect vulnerable road users.

o What is your position on Ontario's electricity-producing strategy going forward?

To repeat: The cheapest electricity is the electricity we don't use. Our energy efficient building retrofit program will help families and businesses lower electricity bills. As mentioned above, its goal is to retrofit at least five per cent of Ontario buildings per year to meet international energy efficiency standards.

o How would you assist the development of a circular economy in PerthWellington?

Ontarians are working to cut down on waste produced at home, while the waste produced by large companies fills up our landfills and pollutes our water and air. Liberal and Conservative governments have failed to make big corporations pay for their pollution. An Ontario NDP government will fix this.

Working closely with municipalities, industry and Stewardship Ontario, we'll improve and expand the producer-responsibility model of waste diversion to include more sectors and set higher recycling targets.

We will ban non-medical single-use plastics by 2024 and enshrine this in provincial legislation.

We'll work with municipalities to improve recycling and composting service delivery everywhere in Ontario.

o How will you support Stratford (and other communities) in carrying out its GHG Reduction Plan?

Action on the climate crisis should not come at the cost of jobs, or an affordable life, for everyday Ontarians. An Ontario NDP government will ensure Ontarians living in rural and Northern areas, or those in traditional industrial trades, aren't left behind as we transition to a cleaner economy.

We will create about one million jobs over the lifetime of the plan: We'll ensure our transition to a net-zero economy creates over a million good jobs in Ontario, with salaries people can raise a family on. We'll partner with labour and industry to ensure anyone who wants to learn a skilled trade – no matter at what stage of their career – gets the education, training and job placement they need. We'll focus on recruiting and training people from marginalized communities, and those typically excluded from skilled trades, including women, racialized people, and Indigenous Peoples.

We will invest a share of cap-and-trade revenue in technology to help trade-exposed industries compete and adapt.

A Just Transition is the core principle of the Ontario NDP's Green New Democratic Deal. The transition to a net-zero economy must be equitable and just. Everyone deserves to share in the opportunity and prosperity it brings. Black, Indigenous, and people of colour have

suffered the most and benefited the least from the conditions that have led to the climate crisis. An NDP Government will work to address the root causes of this inequity, including environmental racism. We will use an environmental justice lens for all programs and policies we deliver, ensuring that nobody, and no community, will be left behind.

HIGHWAY 413

o What is your position on Highway 413?

Investigative reports have revealed that the main beneficiaries of Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass are well-connected developers who are also friends and donors of Doug Ford and the PC Party. These gifts to political insiders will cost taxpayers over \$10 billion, while destroying the Greenbelt and prime farmland — and will only result in *more* traffic congestion over the long-term, not less. Public infrastructure should serve the public interest, not Doug Ford's developer buddies. An NDP government will cancel these unnecessary and costly highways, and instead use the billions saved for healthcare, education and public transit.

o What is your position on aggregate removal protocols in PerthWellington?

Aggregates are vital for building housing and infrastructure, and it is crucial that Ontario have reliable supplies of this important resource. However, Ontario currently lacks an evidence based strategy to govern new aggregate pit and quarry approvals. In fact, Ontario already has access to more than enough aggregates under existing approvals to meet Ontario's needs for many years to come. Before any new approvals are issued, Ontario should develop a science based aggregates strategy to ensure Ontario's long-term supply while protecting farmland, groundwater and the environment — and encouraging the use of recycled aggregates. An NDP government will develop this strategy in consultation with industry and community stakeholders, Indigenous communities, municipalities, scientists and other experts. And as mentioned, the Ontario NDP will cancel the costly and unnecessary Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass, which threaten Ontario's farmland and needlessly drive up the demand for aggregates.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

o How will you help support and protect endangered species in PerthWellington?

The Ford government weakened the Endangered Species Act, and politicized appointments to the expert scientific committees advising on species-at-risk. The Ford government also introduced unscientific "pay to slay" schemes allowing developers to destroy irreplaceable protected habitats in exchange for a fee. An NDP government would reverse these harmful changes, and ensure that Ontario's protections for species-at-risk are based on science and the public interest, not the special interests of Doug Ford's friends and donors.

o How would you help to preserve and increase our natural habitats throughout Ontario?

Ontarians are proud of our province's vast forests, pristine farmland and abundant freshwater. But these resources are increasingly at risk. In the last 100 years, the province has lost 73 per cent of its natural habitats, including forests, fields, wetlands and marshes. An NDP government will work with Indigenous peoples and the federal government, as well as community, business and environmental stakeholders, to meet Canada's 2030 target of 30% protection.

o Will you return oversight and control of our wetlands and rivers, and significant adjacent areas to qualified scientists, naturalists and resource managers in local Conservation Authorities?

Yes. Ontarians need to know that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the clean air, drinking water, and beautiful natural spaces of previous generations. All Ontarians deserve a prosperous, healthy future.