



**CLIMATE
MOMENTUM**

MATTHEW RAE, Ontario Progressive Conservative Candidate for Perth—Wellington

URBAN SPRAWL

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

Coming from an agricultural background and a family farm, it goes without saying that I value the agricultural land Perth County is blessed with. I would work with our local municipalities to encourage development that builds up or in-fills where possible.

All MZOs issued by the PC government on non-provincially owned lands came at the request of the local municipality and with the support of elected officials on the local council. The municipality maintains site plan approvals, building permits, and other processes, and remains responsible for getting the project over the finish line.

The PC government is proud of the partnerships we have developed with municipalities, and will continue to work with them to utilize the tools we have provided to address local challenges they identify in their communities. This is a refreshing change from previous governments that dictated to our local municipalities what must be built, such as industrial wind farms.

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

Everyone deserves to have a place to call home.

For the past two years, I've sat on the Perth County Committee for Attainable and Affordable Housing; this is an issue that is important to me.

To solve this crisis we need to work with our municipalities. A one size fits all plan will not work, the needs in our own community are vastly different from those of downtown Toronto.

We are addressing barriers and red tape to build new homes, while maintaining agricultural lands and the environment – and our approach is working. Our Housing Supply Action Plan has helped over 100,000 new homes start construction last year.



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CLIMATE CHANGE

- ***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?***

The PC government is taking action on climate change by positioning Ontario as a world leader in the production of electric vehicles and batteries. This includes securing Ontario's first electric vehicle battery plant with the largest investment in Canada's history, \$5 billion. The PC government has also worked with GM, Honda and Ford, to retool their plants to produce electric vehicles. Our PC government will continue to make investments in technology to help reduce our carbon footprint.

The PC government is also partnering with Dofasco, a steelmaker, to replace their coal ovens and blast furnaces with a low-emission Electric Furnace. This transformation alone will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by three million tonnes annually and eliminate one of the largest sources of pollution. This represents a \$500 million investment.

- ***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?***

As part of our plan to keep costs down for Ontario families and businesses, Progressive Conservatives are making it easier for homeowners, farms, and businesses to use renewable generation systems, like rooftop solar, to help lower the cost of their electricity bills.

We are advancing work to deliver a new optional ultra-low overnight Time-of-Use electricity price plan – part of our plan to provide consumers with more ways to keep costs down, save money, and take control of their energy bills.

In our first term in office, the PC government expanded access to reliable and affordable natural gas to rural, northern and Indigenous communities across Ontario. A re-elected PC government will examine a third phase of the Natural Gas Expansion Program.



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

Our PC government committed another \$1.5 million to keep the new PC Connect Bus routes running until at least 2025. We also committed another \$242,000 to ensure Wellington County's Ride Well program can continue to operate until 2025.

Our PC government also brought the GO Train to Stratford and St. Marys. This service is currently in the pilot project phase. A re-elected PC government has committed to working on track improvements to support the implementation of faster and more frequent service between Stratford/St. Marys and Union Station.

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

PCs are providing \$91 million to help make electric vehicle chargers more accessible to the public across Ontario. This is an investment that will support the uptake of electric vehicles and support Ontario's auto industry.

If elected on June 2nd, I will work with local municipalities and stakeholders to determine how we can best support electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Perth-Wellington.

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

PCs recognize the important role that nuclear power plays in Ontario's electricity grid. We are investing in small modular nuclear reactors as a part of our plan to tackle climate change.

We also launched Ontario's first-ever hydrogen strategy, which will help position the province as a clean manufacturing hub and build on our clean energy advantage.

Additionally, we announced the launch of the Clean Home Heating Pilot. This pilot project will support the installation of electric heat pumps with smart controls.

o ***How would you assist the development of a circular economy in Perth-Wellington?***



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If elected, on June 2nd, I will work with local community groups and businesses to highlight local initiatives to the appropriate Ministers at Queen's Park.

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

If elected, on June 2nd, I will work with local municipalities on many issues, including climate resiliency.

HIGHWAY 413

- o ***What is your position on Highway 413?***

Our PC government's position has been clear. We are moving forward with Highway 413. Provincial and agricultural associations support this highway. Susan Fitzgerald, Executive Director of the Ontario Livestock Transporters' Alliance supports this long overdue route through the GTA. Jody Mott, Executive Director of the Holland Marsh Growers Association supports the Bradford Bypass as an essential piece of infrastructure for farmers to ship their products across Canada and internationally.

- o ***What is your position on aggregate removal protocols in Perth-Wellington?***

If elected, on June 2nd, I will work with local municipalities on many issues, including aggregate removal protocols.

Over the past four years, we worked to improve the way aggregate resources are managed.

Working with our municipal partners, we made changes to support our growing communities and promote economic growth within the aggregate industry, while continuing our commitment to protecting the environment and addressing community impacts.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

- o ***How will you help support and protect endangered species in Perth-Wellington?***



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Our PC government invested \$6.7 million in the restoration and enhancement of approximately 150 wetland projects; this includes funding that will help conservation partners preserve and increase habitats for endangered species.

If elected, on June 2nd, I will work with local municipalities on many issues, including the protection of endangered species.

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

The aforementioned \$6.7 million investment in the restoration and enhancement of wetland projects across Ontario will help conservation partners restore more than 750 hectares of wetlands and improve water quality. It will also help prevent flooding and build climate change resiliency in the Great Lakes watershed and connecting waterways.

A re-elected PC government would also establish the first new operating provincial park in 40 years.

If elected, on June 2nd, I will work with local municipalities on many issues, including the preservation of natural habitats.

- 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?***

If elected, on June 2nd, I will work with our farm families, property owners, municipalities and local conservation authorities to protect our wetlands and rivers for generations to come.