

ONTARIO ELECTION GUIDE 2022

	 green Party of Ontario	 LIBERAL ONTARIO	 ONTARIO NDP	 ONTARIO PC	 NEW BLUE ONTARIO	 ONTARIO party
FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE & RELIGION	No official position.	No official position.	No official position.	PC MPPs introduced two private members' bills with relation to freedom of religion. One is the <i>Ontario Religious Freedom Day Act</i> which would recognize October 27 as religious freedom day in Ontario. Another is the <i>Protecting Ontario's Religious Diversity Act</i> , which would add religious expression as a protected ground to the Ontario <i>Human Rights Code</i> . In 2018, Premier Ford promised to legislate conscience rights for physicians, but that has not happened over the past four years and the promise has not been re-stated.	The New Blue Party states that "Liberty is best promoted through the ability of individuals to make decisions in their own best interests and encouraging free will (including freedom of speech, worship, assembly, association, political participation, conscience, and religion), while recognizing the responsibilities that accompany all rights." ¹ No stated position on physician conscience rights.	Has an extensive platform policy on freedom of conscience. Platform promises to "use all means at its disposal to ensure that no Ontario citizen can be compelled to commit an act, or communicate an idea, that directly contradicts their sincerely held religious beliefs or moral conviction..." ² They also promise to establish a separate government office dedicated to guarding free expression and conscience rights of Ontarians. ³ Specifically, the platform promises to protect health care workers who choose not to participate in procedure such as abortion or euthanasia. ⁴
FAMILY	No official position.	The <i>All Families are Equal Act</i> was introduced and implemented by the Liberal government under the leadership of Premier Wynne. The <i>Act</i> received support from all parties at the time.	Would apply a gender-based analysis plus system to ensure that all government programs, policies, and legislation, are inclusive. ⁵ Also promises to make contraception free to allow individuals to make choices about their reproductive health. ⁶ Will launch a 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion Action Plan. ⁷	No official position.	The New Blue Party states in their founding principles: "The health and wellbeing of society is improved by strong families in which parents are the primary educators and caregivers of their children and by recognizing the inherent value and dignity of human life from conception to natural death." ⁸	The Ontario Party Charter states: "We recognize the family as the basic building block of a healthy and functional society and the best place for healthy and responsible citizens to be formed." ⁹ Promise to increase funding and support for crisis pregnancy centers. ¹⁰
HEALTHCARE	Primary focus on mental health care and expanding access to it through OHIP. As part of this, supports decriminalization of illegal drugs and expansion of safe consumption sites.	Has announced plan to increase hospital capacity and nursing capacity. ¹² Also promise to expand OHIP coverage to reduce barriers to gender-affirming surgeries and provide	Specific focus on delivering universal mental health care, as well as dental care and pharmacare for everyone. ¹⁴ Also promises to expand access to midwifery care and maternal	Promises to expand health care work force and invest in new hospitals and hospital capacity and other health care infrastructure. ¹⁷	The New Blue Ontario says they will clear the backlog of medical procedures by rehiring healthcare workers and offering choice in services. ¹⁸	Promises to permit private and non-profit organizations to provide private healthcare. Will assist private and charitable organizations to provide alternatives in caring for families.

	Also, promises to phase in a universal basic income. ¹¹	further supports to 2SLGBTQ+ youth. ¹³	health. Wants to work with the federal government towards decriminalization of drugs and invest in harm reduction strategies and supervised consumption sites. ¹⁵ Promises to remove racism and homophobia from health care and improve access to gender affirming and gender transition procedures. ¹⁶			Will increase hospital capacity and hire more healthcare workers. Also promises to prevent the use of non-reversible treatments for children experiencing gender dysphoria and require parental consent for medical procedures for children. ¹⁹
ELDER CARE	Leader of the Party, Mike Schreiner has been on record for advocating for phasing out of for-profit long-term care homes. ²⁰	Promise an increase of home care funding by 10% annually. Desired result is 400,000 more seniors to get home care by 2026. Promise to end "for-profit" long-term care with 2028 as the target date. Add 30,000 new beds (and move 28,000 beds from "for-profit" to "not-for-profit"). ²¹ Increase PSW minimum wage to \$25/hour. ²²	Promise to end "for-profit" long term care. Add 50,000 new beds by 2030. Ensure care includes access to care that is personal and familiar, with staff and practices that reflect their distinct cultures and languages. ²³ An MPP brought forward a private Members Bill, the <i>More than a Visitor Act</i> , that recognized the value of visitors in the healthcare of people in congregant care settings. ²⁴ Platform commits to "ensure that every Ontarian who seeks access to medical assistance in dying receives it." ²⁵	Have added 27,000 long term care beds over last 4 years. Implemented <i>Patient Bill of Rights</i> . Increased target time of care to 4 hours per resident (by March 31, 2025). ²⁶ Recent budget earmarks an additional \$1 Billion for home care investments helping elderly live at home longer. ²⁷	No official position.	Promise to ensure resources and staff in retirement homes and other facilities are sufficient to keep the elderly safe and healthy. ²⁸
DAY CARE EDUCATION	Leader Mike Schreiner supports government funded day care. ²⁹	Support government funded day care. ³⁰ Promise to retroactively give rebates back to parents for higher childcare costs from the last year. ³¹ Previous Liberal governments brought forward very progressive sex education curriculum that failed to properly consult parents or recognize the primacy of parents in education. ³²	Support government funded day care. ³³ Only reference to parental involvement in education is with the commitment to "work with parents, front-line educators, students, and educational experts to overhaul the education funding formula." ³⁴ NDP MPP introduced Bill 67, the <i>Racial Equity in Education Act</i> to include further racial equity and anti-racism training and practices into the education system.	Recently announced an agreement with federal government for publicly funded day care. ³⁵ Updated the Wynne government's sex-ed curriculum. Engaged in a robust parental consultation. Included exemptions for parents to keep children out of school for content they disagree with and encourages parental involvement in education. Still includes questionable content around gender and sexuality. ³⁶	Introduce alternative schooling tax credits. Also commit to stopping critical race theory and gender identity theory in the schools. ³⁷	Encourage parental choice in education by providing educational vouchers to parents for the school of choice. Allow parents to opt children out of classes. Promises to make it illegal for teachers to promote gender identity and critical race ideology. Would remove 'subjective beliefs and values related to sexuality' from Ontario curriculum. ³⁸
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION HATE SPEECH	Leader Mike Schreiner called on the government to combat Islamophobia and to	Has endorsed the <i>Our London Family Act</i> introduced by the NDP. ⁴¹ In a statement,	Four NDP MPPs introduced the <i>Our London Family Act</i> which seeks to combat	Mandated Universities and Colleges to introduce a free	Promises to defund the establishment media and promote a free press. ⁴⁷ MPP	Promises to protect free speech for pro-life views by repealing Bubble Zone

	<p>crack down on anti-Muslim discrimination, hate and white supremacy.³⁹ Supports <i>Our London Family Act</i> introduced by the NDP.⁴⁰</p>	<p>leader Steven Del Duca said “no matter where you came from, who you love, or who you worship – everyone is welcome and given a fair shot at success. This is a place where we reject hate.”⁴² Promises to implement anti-racism training for police so they can punish hate crimes. Would create a Cabinet Minister dedicated to fighting racism and further methods to tackle hate speech.⁴³</p>	<p>Islamophobia and hatred by increasing provincial anti-racism training as well as providing further ways for the province to tackle hate speech.⁴⁴ Promises to Implement anti-racism strategy and anti-oppression and anti-bias training.⁴⁵</p>	<p>speech policy in 2018.⁴⁶</p>	<p>Belinda Karahalios voted against the <i>Our London Family Act</i>.</p>	<p>legislation. Also would protect the rights of freedom of expression for all Ontarians and withhold provincial funding from provincially funded organizations that violate the free expression of their members.⁴⁸</p>
<p>COVID-19 RESPONSE & VACCINE MANDATES</p>	<p>No official position.</p>	<p>Supported coercive proof of vaccination requirements. Prepared a plan in September 2021 to ‘Mandate Safety.’ This plan would strengthen vaccine mandates for employees and implement vaccine mandates for provincial travel.⁴⁹</p>	<p>Supported coercive proof of vaccination requirements.⁵⁰ Promise to hold a public inquiry to Covid-19 response. Promise to update our emergency response plans and prepare for public health emergencies.⁵¹</p>	<p>Implemented the Re-opening Ontario Act which allowed government to retain certain (but not all) emergency powers without having an emergency declared. This Act prevented normal oversight of the executive branch of government (cabinet) by the legislative branch (MPPs). Instead, oversight was provided by a committee of MPPs.⁵² Implemented coercive proof of vaccination requirements.⁵³</p>	<p>Opposed coercive proof of vaccination policies.⁵⁴ Opposed the Re-opening Ontario Act.</p>	<p>Opposed coercive proof of vaccination policies. Promise to virtually outlaw the ability to impose lockdown and restrictions that violate Charter rights. Would deem places of worship as essential services.⁵⁵</p>

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

Freedom of conscience for healthcare professionals has been an issue in Ontario for a number of years, but especially since the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) required physicians to facilitate access to services such as euthanasia and abortion by providing an “effective referral.” The Ontario government has the ability to pass legislation to protect the conscience of medical professionals and to ensure that the CPSO changes its policy around effective referrals. This is an issue we will be watching very closely following the election. Here are some questions you can ask your candidates on the issue:

- ➔ Will you support legislation which protects freedom of conscience for Ontario healthcare professionals who cannot participate in providing medical assistance in dying, either directly or through effective referral?

FAMILY LAW

Ontario family law is another area of focus for ARPA Canada in 2022. As explained in [this article](#), the Ontario government radically redefined the family in 2016. The changes made through the *All Families are Equal Act* fail to recognize the natural family as the most fundamental unit of society and create arbitrary standards for what can constitute a family. Ask your candidates to:

- ➔ Commit to fixing the definition of parentage so that children are recognized as the children of their biological parents.
- ➔ Commit to putting the terms ‘father’ and ‘mother’ back into Ontario law.
- ➔ Commit to ensuring that a legal family consists of a maximum of two legal parents.
- ➔ Commit to screening all non-biological adults that wish to parent a child; not just in cases of adoption, but also in those that use assisted human reproduction.

HEALTHCARE

Healthcare is a broad category and a major focus of every provincial government and every provincial political party. Some of the more notable promises in this election guide are around gender and sexuality in health care as well as parental consent. Here are some questions you can ask your candidates:

- Will you commit to protecting children from irreversible procedures such as gender transition surgeries?
- Will you commit to involving parents in decisions around healthcare for their child, and require parental consent for minors' medical decisions? Undergoing an abortion is a life-changing procedure for a young woman. Will you protect her right to benefit from the advice and care of her parents when making that decision?

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION/HATE SPEECH

This is an issue that has arisen federally as well in recent years. Provincially, the focus is more on free speech on university campuses and hate speech surrounding religious groups.

- Will you support freedom of expression for all Ontarians in any context?
- Would you repeal bubble zone legislation? Although abortion legislation is a federal issue, it is the provincial government's responsibility to administer health care and protect free speech in our province.

ELDER CARE / LONG-TERM CARE

Congregant care settings were hit the hardest during Covid-19. In response, each party will be looking at ways to ensure that long-term care facilities are safe for residents on the one hand and the need for continued personal connection by way of the visits from family and friends. Additionally, many reformed Christians support long-term care homes that are aligned with their values to ensure that the elderly are looked after in ways that align with their worldview. Ask your potential MPP:

- Given that visitors play an integral part of the health and well-being those living in congregant care settings, would you support legislation that ensures designated family and friends continue to have the ability to visit loved ones, even during times of crisis?
- Will you support the continued use of long-term care homes that ensure Ontarians can live in a home that respects diverse cultural and spiritual sensitivities?
- How will you ensure strong conscience protection rights for private care homes to operate in line with their religious, cultural and heritage commitments?

EDUCATION

More and more Ontarians are seeking alternatives to the public system.⁵⁶ Parents have the moral responsibility to direct the education of their children and should be given the freedom to do so. Canada's constitution and legal tradition, along with international law, support educational pluralism. An abundance of academic literature demonstrates that having diverse educational options delivers superior results. Ask your local candidates:

- Do you support provincial legislation that protects the right of parents to select schooling for their children in line with their religious, philosophical, or cultural commitments or traditions?
- Do you support the encouragement of parents to be engaged in their child(ren)'s education by providing them with curriculum information and updates, allowing them to keep their children out of classes when the parents deem it appropriate?

¹<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f7c908f88a7aa2fb183624/t/6165f3459e417555a1187b94/1634071367659/Founding+Constitution+of+the+New+Blue+Party+of+Ontario+Oct+12+2021.pdf>, 1

²https://www.ontarioparty.ca/our_platform_en

³https://www.ontarioparty.ca/our_platform_en

⁴https://www.ontarioparty.ca/our_platform_en

⁵https://www.ontariondp.ca/sites/default/files/ondp_platform_booklet_bilingual_final_26apr_compressed.pdf, 69.

⁶https://www.ontariondp.ca/sites/default/files/ondp_platform_booklet_bilingual_final_26apr_compressed.pdf, 69.

⁷https://www.ontariondp.ca/sites/default/files/ondp_platform_booklet_bilingual_final_26apr_compressed.pdf, 68.

⁸<https://www.newblueontario.com/principles>

⁹https://assets.nationbuilder.com/ontarioparty/pages/48/attachments/original/1647370213/Ontario_Party_Charter_New_Logo.pdf?1647370213, 1

¹⁰https://www.ontarioparty.ca/our_platform_en

¹¹<https://files.ontariogreens.ca/platform/gpo-mental-health-plan-en-web.pdf>

¹²<https://ontarioliberal.ca/del-duca-time-to-repeal-doug-fords-bill-124-and-build-up-our-nursing-capacity/>

¹³<https://ontarioliberal.ca/ontario-liberals-will-expand-ohip-access-for-prep-and-other-hiv-medications/>

¹⁴<https://www.ontariondp.ca/mentalhealth>

¹⁵<https://www.ontariondp.ca/platform/health-care>

¹⁶https://www.ontariondp.ca/sites/default/files/ondp_platform_booklet_bilingual_final_26apr_compressed.pdf, 21.

¹⁷<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002123/ontarios-plan-to-build>

¹⁸<https://www.newblueontario.com/new-blue-print>

¹⁹https://www.ontarioparty.ca/our_platform_en

²⁰<https://mikeschreinermpp.ca/we-need-reform-in-ltc-not-band-aids/>

²¹<https://ontarioliberal.ca/elder-care-plan/>

²²<https://ontarioliberal.ca/ontario-liberals-will-raise-health-care-wages-and-psw-pay-to-25-hour/#0>

²³<https://www.ontariondp.ca/platform/home-care-long-term-care>

²⁴<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-203>

25 https://www.ontariondp.ca/sites/default/files/ondp_platform_booklet_bilingual_final_26apr_compressed.pdf, 23.

26 <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-2/bill-37>

27 <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-2/bill-126>

28 https://www.ontarioparty.ca/our_platform_en

29 <https://mikeschreinermpp.ca/its-about-time-an-affordable-child-care-deal-was-signed/>

30 <https://ontarioliberal.ca/care-for-every-child-in-ontario/>

31 <https://ontarioliberal.ca/del-duca-pledges-retroactive-child-care-payment-to-ensure-parents-not-stuck-paying-for-doug-fords-delay/>

32 <https://arpacanada.ca/articles/parents-undermined-in-ontario-curriculum-plans/>

33 <https://www.ontariondp.ca/news/horwath-s-ndp-responds-federal-child-care-funding>

34 <https://www.ontariondp.ca/platform/education>

35 <https://www.ontario.ca/page/canada-ontario-early-years-and-child-care-agreement>

36 <https://arpacanada.ca/articles/ontario-government-releases-updated-2019-sex-ed-curriculum/>

37 <https://www.newblueontario.com/new-blue-print>

38 https://www.ontarioparty.ca/our_platform_en

39 <https://mikeschreinermpp.ca/schreiner-calls-for-all-party-approach-to-tackle-islamophobia/>

40 <https://mikeschreinermpp.ca/mike-schreiner-supports-our-london-family-act/>

41 <https://ontarioliberal.ca/ontario-liberals-call-for-the-urgent-passage-of-our-london-family-act/>

42 <https://ontarioliberal.ca/ontario-must-reject-hate/>

43 <https://ontarioliberal.ca/ontario-liberals-will-fight-systemic-racism-in-schools-and-policing/>

44 <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-2/bill-86>

45 <https://www.ontariondp.ca/platform/equity>

46 <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/49948/ontario-protects-free-speech-on-campuses>

47 <https://www.newblueontario.com/new-blue-print>

48 https://www.ontarioparty.ca/our_platform_en

49 <https://ontarioliberal.ca/ontario-liberals-release-plan-to-mandate-safety-after-surge-in-anti-science-protests/>

50 <https://www.ontariondp.ca/news/horwath-calls-ford-enforce-vaccine-certificate-rules-protect-ontarians>

51 <https://www.ontariondp.ca/platform/covid-recovery>

52 <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-195>

53 <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000779/ontario-to-require-proof-of-vaccination-in-select-settings>

54 <https://tnc.news/2021/10/03/disgraceful-and-undemocratic-ontario-mpp-slams-decision-to-mandate-vaccines-at-queens-park/>

55 https://www.ontarioparty.ca/our_platform_en

56 Bennett, The State of the System, *supra* note 8, Chapter 7: The “One-Size-Fits-All” Model.