



**Green Party of Ontario**  
PO Box 1132 Station F Toronto, ON M4Y 2T8

Dr. Kate Lawson  
President  
OCUFA  
17 Isabella Street  
Toronto, ON  
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4 June 2014

Dear Dr. Lawson,

Thank you for the opportunity that you have given the Green Party of Ontario (GPO) to discuss our policies on issues that are important to OCUFA. I am pleased to be able to respond on the GPO's behalf. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further queries.

[What will your party do to ensure Ontario universities have the funding they need to provide a high quality education to every student?](#)

*The Green Party of Ontario's (GPO) plan for Ontario's economy includes increasing funding for university and college operating budgets to ensure a high quality of education. By delaying tax cuts for large corporations until after the budget is balanced, we can freeze tuition rates while increasing investments in colleges and universities.*

*The GPO supports instituting a multi-year and stable funding framework for post-secondary education. Ontario needs to commit to a post-secondary education system that is affordable for students and one that still maintains a high level of program quality in order to guide young people into the careers and trades of tomorrow.*

*One of Ontario's many strengths is a diverse and educated population. Our policies build on this strength by providing students with the tools to maximize their potential. We are committed to investing in training programs that fill the needs of our future economy and facilitate access to jobs.*

[How does your party plan to address the full-time faculty shortage in Ontario?](#)

*Improving Ontario's post-secondary education system involves ensuring that students have access to post-secondary education and then go on to receive the training that they need to hone their skills and to fulfill their potential.*

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*The Green Party of Ontario will increase funding for university and college operating budgets to ensure the maintenance of a high quality of post-secondary education system. By increasing investments in colleges and universities, the GPO will provide the fiscal support required by post-secondary institutions in order to increase the number of tenured faculty and full-time employees.*

*The GPO will also increase investments in apprenticeship, co-operative and mentorship programs. In addition, we will expand training and certification programs in job growth areas such as green building, bio-medical technology, renewable energy and sustainable transportation.*

**What will your party do to address the increasing precarity of academic employment in the province?**

*As stated above, the GPO will increase funding for university and college operating budgets to ensure a high quality of education. By increasing investments in colleges and universities, the GPO will provide the support needed for post-secondary institutions to increase the number of full-time faculty.*

**What will your party do to control tuition fees and ensure Ontario's universities are affordable to every willing and qualified student?**

*The GPO aims to build on the diverse strengths of our province's population by providing students with the tools to maximize their potential. We are dedicated to making it easier for students to access and pay for post-secondary education.*

*Tuition fees have risen over the last few years making Ontario the most expensive province in Canada in which to study. The GPO is committed to enhancing the quality of post-secondary education while making it more affordable. In order to promote affordability, we will freeze tuition for the time being while maintaining university and college budgets and indexing tuition increases to the rate of inflation thereafter.*

*We will prohibit institutions from charging late fees or interest on payments for students who receive OSAP loans to pay their tuition fees, especially when the tuition is due before the funding is paid out. In addition, we will prohibit institutions from charging different tuition fees based on year of study, within the same program.*

*The GPO will also commit to converting the current system of tax credits and back-end grants to a comprehensive system of upfront, need-based grants. To aid students in commuting to school*

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*affordably, we will develop a funding strategy that makes public transit more accessible for post-secondary students.*

*We will also work with student organizations and the federal government to revise the tax credit system for university tuition to make it work better for students and their families. We are committed to policies that invest in Ontario's youth and students, and look forward to working with student associations to determine the best policies to promote quality and accessibility of education.*

### What will your party do to ensure fair labour laws that benefit all Ontarians?

*The GPO believes that all of Ontario's workers should be protected by fair labour laws. We support the democratic rights of all workers, including the faculty and staff of post-secondary institutions, to bargain collectively.*

*The GPO believes that unions have played a positive role in the economy, particularly in enhancing the safety of the workplace. We recognize the negotiated contracts of all active unions. The GPO promotes democracy in unions and workplaces, and supports the democratic right of unions and workers to be engaged in determining their dues structures.*

*The Green Party of Ontario is committed to working with faculty to ensure that we have a prosperous and fair economy that nourishes and sustains our communities and promotes the health and well being of all Ontarians.*

### What steps will your party take to ensure that the university sector is able to develop and implement fair and sustainable pension solutions?

*The Green Party of Ontario supports pension reforms to ensure that all Ontarians have adequate financial resources to retire with dignity. We believe such reforms are best made at the federal level. The GPO is committed to working with all stakeholders in exploring innovative ways of funding pensions without increasing payroll taxes on workers and businesses.*

### How will your party use research policy and funding to strike a balance between basic research and research commercialization?

*The GPO believes that strong support of research is needed to build the foundation for the economy of the twenty-first century. We need innovative research in all areas and most particularly in clean technology and knowledge-based services. Integrated and collaborative research is important in fuelling creativity and innovation.*



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*The GPO supports a research funding model with programs in both basic research and research commercialization. We recognize that research commercialization and partnerships between universities and the private sector can provide a financial advantage to certain programs, while freeing up resources for others in basic research. We need to be supporting our students and researchers equitably across the board, and to find innovative ways to promote research for the 21st century without being trapped in outdated funding models*

What will your party do to ensure that the transition to a new teacher training model in Ontario doesn't create chaos at universities where students in the Faculty of Education account for a significant portion of enrolment?

*The GPO would commit undertaking a review of the changes made to the teacher training programs in Ontario. We would consult all stakeholders - including students and faculty - about the changes and work to make sensible amendments that benefit all parties.*

Warm regards,

Jessica Higgins  
Policy Coordinator  
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