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RE: OCUFA Provincial Party Platform Survey

Dear Mina,

Thank you very much for sending the Ontario Greens your questionnaire. We appreciate the opportunity to speak on these issues that matter to Ontarians. I am happy to provide you with a response on behalf of the party.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Crist  
Office Manager  
Green Party of Ontario

### **OCUFA Provincial Party Platform Survey**

**QUESTION: What is your party's vision for post-pandemic recovery in Ontario and what supports will you be providing to universities as engines of research, innovation, and education in the province?**

After two chaotic years inside and outside of the classroom, students and teachers need the government to bring stability to the school system and get back to high-quality, in-person education.

Ontario Greens feel that education should be accessible to everyone. We should all have access to education and training that suits our abilities and interests. Our lifelong learning curve should not be cut short by unnecessary obstacles. A 21st century educational system needs to keep pace with the changes and requirements of a society in transition.

We need new funding models and clear, affordable pathways to higher education.

For the Green Party, building a modern, more equitable education system is a must. Properly funding our educational support workers and retaining strong and committed teachers is paramount. We will index the base operating grant for Ontario's post-secondary institutions to the weighted national average by providing an additional \$3.7 billion in funding over 4 years.

Investments in education are important for the health, wellbeing, and success of kids and young people now and for the future. Ontario Greens strongly support data-driven approaches, and as such, will support our provincial universities to conduct that research. In particular, as we transition to the new

climate economy, universities will be important hubs for research and innovation. Ontario Greens will fund research into low-carbon opportunities.

**QUESTION: How will your party address precarious work at Ontario universities and will your party commit to delivering job security, and providing funding to ensure faculty renewal?**

We will ensure consistent and fair labour standards and working conditions for all faculty, including contract faculty so that people receive equal wages for equal work. We will remove wage constraints and will close the loopholes that can lead to precarious work, including stricter regulations relating to the temp agency industry. We also support changing the current provincial post-secondary funding policy to better support the hiring of additional full-time faculty and a faculty renewal strategy that creates pathways into secure, full-time positions.

**QUESTION: Will your party implement and fund new labour laws, including equal pay for work of equivalent value provisions for university contract faculty?**

Ontario Greens will remove wage constraints and pay equal wages for equal work. We must ensure predictable and fair labour standards and working conditions for contract faculty while ensuring they receive equal pay for equal work. We firmly believe that the success of our students depends on the quality and wellbeing of our educators across the province.

**QUESTION: Will your party repeal the legislated wage constraints introduced under Bill 124?**

Yes, Ontario Greens are committed to immediately repealing Bill 124, and the problematic sections of Bill 106, so that workers are able to bargain collectively for fair wages.

**QUESTION: Will your party commit to increased investments to bring core provincial funding for Ontario universities up to the national average, or greater, to create the postsecondary sector Ontarians deserve?**

Yes. We will index the base operating grant for Ontario's post-secondary institutions to the weighted national average, followed by inflationary increases year to year.

**QUESTION: Will your party commit to meaningful increases to the Northern and Bilingual grants in recognition of the important mandate of northern and bilingual institutions and the particular challenges they face?**

Yes. Ontario Greens will understand that Northern and rural communities have unique needs and that a one-size fits all solution doesn't work for those communities. We also support the University of Sudbury in becoming a northern university by and for Francophones.

**QUESTION: Will your party commit to an increase in special purpose funding, particularly for Indigenous programming and supports?**

Yes. We will restore funding for the Indigenous curriculum program and work with Indigenous educators and community leaders to develop a mandatory curriculum on colonialism and residential schools, treaties, and Indigenous histories and experiences.

Ontario Greens will also address racism in schools with mandatory collection and reporting of race-based data for student, teacher and staff populations, as well as implementing standard procedures around the reporting of incidents of racism.

We will expand the Centre for Innovation in Campus Mental Health and increase funding for peer-to-peer programming, frontline counselling, harm reduction tools, and training to support well-being and resilience as well as support programs and services that take an intersectional approach to meet the needs of all people, including Indigenous peoples.

**QUESTION: Will your party repeal the performance-based funding model for Ontario's universities?**

Yes. The Ontario Greens would reverse performance-based funding and reimplement funding based on enrollment - with additional funding available for special programs.

**QUESTION: What is your party's plan for improving access to postsecondary education for students from all socioeconomic backgrounds and reducing public universities' reliance on tuition fees?**

Ontario Greens believe that the income level of students and their families should not be a barrier to accessing a university education. We recognize that in Ontario, students have the lowest per-student funding in Canada, resulting in among the highest student debt levels and tuition fees of any province. The Ontario Greens would properly fund higher education with an additional \$3.7B over 4 years and reinstate the targeted free tuition program for low and middle income students, eventually guaranteeing full public tuition for all Ontario residents attending public colleges, trade institutions, and universities.

**QUESTION: Will your party reverse the cuts to OSAP and respond to calls from student groups to convert student loans to grants and address the student debt crisis?**

Ontario Greens would immediately reverse the Ford government's cuts to OSAP by converting loans to grants for low and middle income students and eliminating interest charges on student debt.



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