

Gyllian Phillips
OCUFA President
Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
17 Isabella St, Toronto, ON
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Dear Ms. Phillips:

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to speak to the issues that matter to university faculty across Ontario. I am happy to respond on behalf of the Green Party of Ontario.

OCUFA - Questionnaire

How will your party address precarious work at Ontario universities and will your party commit to delivering job security, equal pay, and access to benefits for university contract faculty?

The Green Party would work towards a standard contract minimum of three courses per semester for adjunct/casual/contract professors to avoid precarity of employment in colleges and universities.

In addition, we support the implementation of a Basic Income Guarantee to assist people with changing work environments, periods of inactivity, and transitioning between jobs.

Will your party implement and fund new labour laws, including equal pay provisions for university contract faculty?

The Green Party supports equity in staff employment, transfer, and promotion, as well as the right of teachers to free and fair bargaining.

We firmly believe that the success of our students depends on the quality and well-being of our teachers across the province.

Will your party commit to launching a faculty renewal strategy that supports quality education through additional full-time faculty hiring, replacing retiring faculty, and creating pathways for contract faculty into secure, full-time positions?

Quality teachers are the bedrock of a quality education, and student-teacher ratios are placing a significant burden on teachers at all levels of our educational system in Ontario.

The Green Party supports changing the current provincial post-secondary funding policy to better support the hiring of additional full-time faculty. We also support a faculty renewal strategy that creates pathways into secure full-time positions.

Will your party commit to increased investments in core operating funding for Ontario's universities to support quality research and education?

Current provincial funding policy rewards colleges and universities based on how many students they can attract, not the quality of education they deliver. This has led to underfunding and oversubscribing, making for crowded lecture halls and overstretched faculty. We can do better by addressing both the funding gap that institutions face and the pressure of rising tuition costs on students.

The Green Party would properly fund higher education with public subsidies, eventually guaranteeing full public tuition for all Ontario residents attending public colleges, trade institutions, and universities, and index the base operating grant provided to post-secondary institutions to the weighted national average, with inflationary increases each year.

What is your party's position on performance based funding for postsecondary education? Will your party repeal the performance based component of Ontario's university funding model?

Performance-based funding only serves high-achieving students and their institutions while failing to assist other universities to improve. The Green Party supports equity of funding amongst Ontario universities.

Will your party require meaningful consultation with faculty as part of the Strategic Mandate Agreement development process?

The Green Party agrees that the voices of post-secondary faculty members must be heard in determining the strategic directions of our province's universities. Meaningful consultation with faculty should indeed be part of the SMA development process.

Will your party respond to calls from student groups to freeze tuition fees and improve access to postsecondary education for students from all socioeconomic backgrounds?

The Green Party would continue to regulate tuition fees by indexing any increases to Ontario's Consumer Price Index (CPI). In addition, we support freezing tuition increases within the span of each cohort. For example, the tuition of a student entering their first

year of a three or four-year undergraduate program would remain frozen for the following two or three years.

We also support interest-free student loans for students with financial needs, as well as increased funding and resources for food security programs in postsecondary institutions to supplement mental health and poverty reduction efforts.

Is your party proposing any additional policies or initiatives that will directly impact university education in Ontario?

The Green Party would implement increased supports for racialized groups, LGBTQ+, and those with disabilities in colleges and universities, as well as increase access to gender and culturally-sensitive mental health services and supports that are timely, flexible, and provided in a safe and comfortable environment.

You can read about our Vision for Ontario at www.gpo.ca/vision and read our platform at www.gpo.ca/platform.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Samantha Bird
Director of Operations
Green Party of Ontario