

Report card: Provincial party platforms

Liberal

NDP

PC

Will they increase public funding for Ontario's universities to support quality research and education?

C

No new investment in the university and college operating grants. The platform includes targeted funding for capital projects (establishment of three new university campuses in Markham, Brampton and Milton) and deferred maintenance.

A-

Would provide an additional investment in university and college operating grants in the amount of \$101 million in 2018-19, \$203 million in 2019-20, \$308 million in 2020-21, \$415 million in 2021-22, and \$523 million in 2022-23.

F

Platform does not commit to funding for universities. Instead, it argues that the government spends too much on public services, raising concerns that funding for these services, including universities, could be cut.

Will they deliver fairness for contract faculty, including equal pay and job security, and take leadership to implement and strengthen recently updated labour laws?

B

Would commit to the implementation of recently updated labour laws, including equal pay measures, and provide a one-time \$167 million fund (\$32 million for universities) to support implementation at universities and colleges.

A

Would strengthen recently introduced equal pay for equal work laws and launch a faculty renewal strategy to allow contract educators to become full-time professors and instructors.

F

Platform does not commit to addressing precarious work or delivering fairness for contract faculty at universities. The PCs also voted against the bill that included recent updates to labour law.

Will they commit to faculty renewal that supports quality education through full-time faculty hiring, replacing retiring faculty, and creating pathways for contract faculty into secure, full-time positions?

F

Platform does not address faculty renewal.

A-

Would launch a faculty renewal strategy at Ontario's universities and colleges, through an investment of \$80 million in 2018-19, followed by \$160 million in 2019-20, \$240 million in 2020-21, \$240 million in 2021-22, and \$240 million in 2022-23.

F

Platform does not address faculty renewal.

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Will they require meaningful consultation with faculty as part of the Strategic Mandate Agreement process and ensure public funding is not linked to performance metrics?

C
Starting in 2020, would designate a portion of university funding as “at-risk” according to performance outcomes, driven by metrics. Would also commit to working with students, faculty, staff, and administrators to ensure that all stakeholders feel engaged and heard in the Strategic Mandate Agreement process.

A
Supports sufficient, stable, and equitable funding for universities, as opposed to performance-based funding, and will engage in meaningful consultation with faculty as part of the Strategic Mandate Agreement process.

F
Platform does not address Strategic Mandate Agreement or university funding models.

Will they introduce measures to improve accessibility of postsecondary education and address calls from student groups to freeze tuition fees?

C+
Would continue implementation of the Ontario Student Grant program and provide students from middle-income families with financial aid by reducing the minimum parental contribution required. Platform does not address rising tuition fees.

B
Would turn all provincial loans for postsecondary students into grants and retroactively forgive all interest for anyone currently carrying provincial student loan debt. Platform does not address rising tuition fees.

F
Platform does not commit to addressing accessibility of postsecondary education or rising tuition fees.

Overall grades

C
Liberal

A-
NDP

F
PC