



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations  
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

## The 2022 election results are in!

On June 2, Ontarians re-elected a Progressive Conservative majority government and returned the Ontario NDP to Official Opposition status for the second time in history. Once again, voters withheld official party status from the Ontario Liberals and denied a second seat to the Green Party of Ontario.

After the results were announced, Andrea Horwath resigned her position as Leader of the Ontario NDP, as did Ontario Liberal Leader Steven Del Duca, who failed to capture his own seat in the Legislature. These two leadership races provide exciting opportunities for new ideas and inspiration.

While this election delivered a sophomore term to the Ford Government, it did not give the government a clear mandate. Only 43.5 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot in the 2022 Ontario Election, which marks a record low voter turnout for the province, and the PC Party was able to capture only 40 per cent of those votes.

This outcome poses both challenges and opportunities for the university sector.

## OCUFA's education advocacy had an impact

During the election period, OCUFA produced a [suite of election-themed materials](#) to assist member associations in mobilizing on campus, doing outreach within their communities, and raising awareness about our election priorities.

OCUFA also [assessed the platforms and PSE commitments of major parties](#) and published [their responses to the OCUFA Party Platform Survey](#). The Progressive Conservatives did not release an official election platform or costings ahead of the elections and were the only major party to not respond to the OCUFA survey.

Moreover, we worked together across our entire university sector—faculty, staff, and students—to focus our campaign efforts on target ridings that were anticipated to be decided by the tightest margins.

In response, our member associations rallied to the cause. They participated in scores of pre-election advocacy meetings with candidates, they organized on-campus election forums, and they mobilized publicly in support of university funding.

## Here are the results in OCUFA's target ridings:\*

### OPC government-held ridings at the time of the writ drop

Brantford—Brant:	<b>Will Bouma (OPC)</b>	Held
Burlington:	<b>Natalie Pierre (OPC)</b>	Held (formerly held by Jane McKenna)
Durham:	<b>Todd McCarthy (OPC)</b>	Held (formerly held by Lindsey Park)
Flamborough—Glanbrook:	<b>Donna Skelly (OPC)</b>	Held
Kitchener—Conestoga:	<b>Mike Harris (OPC)</b>	Held
Nipissing:	<b>Vic Fedeli (OPC)</b>	Held

Ottawa West—Nepean:	<b>Chandra Pasma (ONDP)</b>	Pick up from Jeremy Roberts (OPC)
Peterborough—Kawartha:	<b>Dave Smith (OPC)</b>	Held
Pickering—Uxbridge:	<b>Peter Bethlenfalvy (OPC)</b>	Held
Sault Ste. Marie:	<b>Ross Romano (OPC)</b>	Held
Scarborough—Rouge Park:	<b>Vijay Thanigasalam (OPC)</b>	Held
Whitby:	<b>Lorne Coe (OPC)</b>	Held

### Opposition-held ridings at the time of the writ drop

Don Valley West:	<b>Stephanie Bowman (OLP)</b>	Held (formerly held by Kathleen Wynne)
Essex:	<b>Anthony Leardi (OPC)</b>	Pick up from Ron LeClair (formerly held by Taras Natyshak)
Oshawa:	<b>Jennifer French (ONDP)</b>	Held
St. Catharines:	<b>Jennie Stevens (ONDP)</b>	Held
Thunder Bay—Atikokan:	<b>Kevin Holland (OPC)</b>	Pick up from Judith Monteith-Farrell (ONDP)
Toronto—St. Paul's:	<b>Jill Andrew (ONDP)</b>	Held
York South—Weston:	<b>Michael Ford (OPC)</b>	Pick up from Faisal Hassan (ONDP)

[\\*Click here for the full results.](#)

## What can we expect from the Ford Government's second term?

There is no question that Ford's first term of office was a challenging one for the university sector. Under the Ford administration, the erosion of government support meant average government funding for Ontario's public universities declined to 33 percent. Ford's cuts to financial aid had a devastating impact on students and his performance-based funding was one of several efforts designed to replace collegial governance with a corporate model. His agenda was starkly exposed during the aftermath of the Laurentian crisis and has come under scrutiny by the Auditor General of Ontario.

Many of Ford's other initiatives were also met with staunch opposition and, in some cases, overturned. Ford's "Student Choice Initiative" sought to dismantle students' unions and silence opposition. However, this plan was soundly rejected in the courts. Similar results are expected from Ford's wage restraint legislation, Bill 124, which is currently being challenged in the courts by OCUFA, the Ontario Federation of Labour, and over 40 other unions.

Time will tell whether Ford's new overtures to organized labour reflect a chastened government, but there is no doubt that his core agenda will be the same. We can expect new challenges ahead, and we will be ready.

Without an official platform or much in the way of campaign promises regarding postsecondary education, the Progressive Conservatives were not elected with a firm mandate, so it is up to us to make Ontario's universities a sector that cannot be ignored.

While the Conservatives hold the majority in the next provincial government, many champions of postsecondary education have been elected, across all three opposition parties. We will be seeking the support of each and every one of them.

## Defining our future

In the months and years ahead, OCUFA and its member associations will be tirelessly working together with our allies in the sector to protect and promote public university education. We will be calling on

faculty and academic librarians at campuses across the province to join our cause, amplify our message, and take action in their communities.

Together, we will fight for university funding, defend collective bargaining, challenge corporate governance, protect contract faculty, champion equity, and so much more.

Over the coming months, OCUFA will be defining our legislative priorities for the term ahead, and developing a plan to achieve them.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

May we all define a brighter future.

In solidarity,

Jenny Ahn  
Executive Director