

# Green Party of Ontario Policy Book

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# Chapter 1. About

This policy book contains all of the policy and position statements adopted by the general membership of the Green Party of Ontario since its inception. It is updated after each Policy Conference and should, at all times, be considered a work in progress.

The most recent copy of the policy book is always available at <http://gpo.ca/policy-book>

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## 1.1. Motions Adopted 2016

- Birth Control and Family Support Services
- Early Health Strategy
- Mental Health Strategy
- Available Housing for All
- Support for Renewable Energy Sources
- Planning and Energy use
- Support for Basic Annual Income
- Evidence-based Program Review
- Presumed Consent organ donation
- Support for a Federal Energy Plan
- Active Play in Ontario Schools
- Labour Regulations for Teleworking
- Strengthen the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act
- Education Improvements for Students with Special Needs

## 1.2. Motions Adopted: 2015

- Health Care: Treatment
- Ensuring Fiscal Equality for Ontario's Temporary Foreign Workers
- Including a Healthy Environment in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Mercury Mitigation in Treaty 3 Lands
- Transforming the Alcohol Distribution System
- Clean Soils Act
- Live Green, Eat Green

## 1.3. Motions Adopted: 2014

The following policies were added or modified at the 2014 AGM.

- Dying with Dignity
- Voting and Citizenship
- Electoral Reform for Proportional Representation
- Ending Preferential Treatment of Aggregate Industry
- Enabling Public Participation in the Planning Approvals Process
- Ontario Building Code
- Unpaid internships
- Abattoirs
- Affirming Principles of Responsible Government
- Sheikh-Larkin Social Assistance Reforms
- Animals kept in Zoos, Menageries, and Aquaria
- Nuclear Emergency Planning
- Management of Nuclear Waste

## 1.4. Motions Adopted: 2013

The following policies were added or modified at the 2013 AGM.

- Prime Agricultural Lands and Areas
- Increasing Voter Turnout
- Ontario Ombudsman
- Police Accountability
- Voter Recall Initiative
- Canada-China Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (FIPPA)
- Carbon Fee and Dividend Act
- Employer Health Tax (1): Lowering Payroll Taxes on Small Business
- Property Taxes
- Tax Resource Use and Pollution, Not Income
- Trans-Pacific Partnership
- Freedom from Corporate Influence in Publicly Funded Education
- Ontario Annual Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets
- Junk Food Tax
- Overhaul the Ontario Municipal Board
- Dedicated Revenue Streams for Public Transit
- Safe Bicycling Programs and Infrastructure for Ontario Students
- Safety and Accessibility of Public Transit

# Chapter 2. Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

## 2.1. Food labeling

**WHEREAS** the Green Party supports an agricultural system that encourages farmers to produce environmentally and socially responsible food for a local and regional market and that provides consumers with the information needed to choose food that supports farmers in these efforts.

**WHEREAS** a Green government, in consultation with stakeholders, will develop a provincial food labeling system supported by a set of standards that identifies and promotes locally grown food produced in ways that are environmentally and socially responsible.

**WHEREAS** a Green government will also establish verification and enforcement mechanisms in order to maintain the integrity of these standards.

**WHEREAS** a Green government supports the labeling system through consumer education efforts.

**WHEREAS** a Green government will establish food procurement rules for all provincial food services and publicly funded educational institutions that require the prioritization of food that meets these standards therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will develop a provincial food labeling system that identifies and promotes locally grown food produced in ways that are environmentally and socially responsible.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will establish food procurement rules for all provincial food services and publicly funded educational institutions that require the prioritization of food adhering to the standards developed by the provincial food labeling system.

## 2.2. Genetically modified organisms

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will not support public investment into the development of GMOs (genetically engineered organisms) for agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports public investment in natural, sustainable and ecologically sound methods of land management.

## 2.3. Agricultural research

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will change Ontario's agricultural research and policy priorities from technology development and commodity exports to low-input food production and import replacement;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage the development of low-input food production for local and regional markets;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will train and direct staff to provide technical training and support for low-input ecological and organic farming methods;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will change funding criteria for Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) programs and grants to emphasize low-input food production and import replacement;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will invest agriculture research funding into low-input, labour intensive, ecological and small-scale food production and processing methods.

## 2.4. Food marketing agencies

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario recognizes the important role that distributors, wholesalers, brokers, processors and retailers play in the food system, the tendency toward concentration in these sectors creates a power imbalance in the food distribution chain that must be addressed so that farmers and small-scale processors receive a financially viable return for their products. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will foster marketing and distribution systems that provide farmers with a fair share of the consumer food dollar;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage community and decentralized food processing and distribution;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports farmers' markets, gate sales and other forms of farm-direct and value-added marketing;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement programs to assist farmers in receiving a financially sustainable percentage of the retail price of food products;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide technical support and loan guarantees to assist farmers in developing value-added farm products;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will invest in marketing efforts that shorten the distance between farmers and consumers;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will work with municipalities to foster the development of farmers markets whereby farmers can directly market products grown and processed on farm.

## 2.5. Supply management

**WHEREAS** the primary objective of the supply management system should be to insure that farmers receive an adequate income for their products while maintaining fair access to the system. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will improve the supply management system to provide stable markets, viable pricing and easy access for smaller family farms;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will reform and expand the supply management system to include more farm products and to provide easier access to the system for new growers;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide education material for the public on how the supply management system works and why it helps to insure a secure supply of locally produced food.

## 2.6. Agricultural regulatory review

**WHEREAS** the objective the Green Party of Ontario will be to reduce or eliminate regulations that create a barrier to entry for new farmers or that create an undue burden on small producers and processors. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will hold a public review of agricultural regulations, actively seeking input from stakeholders, of all regulations affecting the agriculture sector;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement regulatory reforms in a way that will strengthen public health standards and ecological integrity.

## 2.7. Agricultural renewable energy

**WHEREAS** in an era with declining supplies of fossil fuels, sustainably grown agricultural products will play an increasingly important role in energy production;

**WHEREAS** increasingly, natural fibres will replace synthetic fibres in consumer, business and manufacturing products;

**WHEREAS** these changes will take place within the context of the need for conservation, reduction and reuse of products;

**WHEREAS** with proper planning and design, Ontario can be a leader in the agriculture production of energy and fibres. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will create an environmental role for existing agriculture in the production of renewable energies, cleaner fuels and agricultural fibres;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Green Party of Ontario will provide research, development and technical support for farmers to produce crops used for renewable energies, cleaner fuels and agricultural fibres;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Green Party of Ontario encourage the use of crop-based starches will replace plastics;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in addition to crop production, rural areas will be utilized to produce energy in sustainable ways through efforts such as wind power;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Green Party of Ontario will enact policies to create the context for the development of

rural businesses and coops in this sector.

## 2.8. Nutrient management standards

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will establish regulations and standards for nutrient management practices that favour solid manure composting and curtail intensive livestock operations and open-cage aquaculture farms;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will, in consultation with stakeholders, develop regulations for the ethical treatment of animals used for the production of food and other agriculture products;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Green Party of Ontario will include in these regulations the elimination of farm-raised animals whereby such practices threaten native and/or wild species.

## 2.9. Ecological goods and services payments

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement a system of ecological goods and services payments to qualified farmers in Ontario.

## 2.10. Integrated Pest Management

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage integrated Pest Management.

## 2.11. Prime Agricultural Lands and Areas

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide permanent protection for prime agricultural lands and areas;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that no mineral aggregate resource extraction areas should be permitted on prime farmland or in specialty crop areas.

## 2.12. Clean Soils Act

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports a Clean Soils Act with the actions outlined in Schedule A at minimum.

### Schedule A

1. Fill Brownfield Regulatory Gaps. MOECC to amend O. Reg. 153 to track contaminated soil to approved receiving sites. Ensure entire source site sampling and compatibility with the receiving site.
2. Clarify Use of MOECC Soil and Groundwater Tables MOECC to develop Standards and Regulations for soil placement outside of O. Reg 153.
  - Consider accumulative effect for large fill site
  - Determine if salt impacted soils affect groundwater
  - A clear definition of "inert fill" and "clean fill"
  - Create a soil table specific to Commercial fill with clear definitions
  - Elevate MOECC Guidelines to Regulations
3. Gain Jurisdiction Over Aerodromes. Transport Canada to specify that the environmental quality of fill is not integral to aviation. Municipalities to be educated and supported by MMAH on their rights regulating fill at Aerodromes.
4. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing involvement. MMAH 2015 review of ORMCP and NEP to consider fill impacts.
  - Large-scale fill projects defined as development
  - High Aquifer Vulnerability and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas in ORMCP and NEP to be protected from fill The Planning Act to define commercial fill operation as a use-of-land. Municipal Act and/or Planning Act to require a materials management plan for excess soil as part of any future large-scale development. Amend the Municipal Act so that site alteration by-laws do apply in CA regulated areas.

5. Stronger Municipal By-laws. Municipal by-laws to regulate and monitor large-scale fill operations.
  - MOECC Standards Development Branch to develop fill guidelines for municipalities
  - MMAH, Conservation Ontario, and AMO to provide model by-laws to municipalities and Conservation Authorities
  - Increase municipal fees to effectively recover costs of monitoring the operations
  - Use independent consultants to provide monitoring services. Municipalities to consider a large scale fill site as a change in land use and subject to planning.
  - Have municipalities engage in pre-selection and pre-approval of targeted fill sites under zoning. Municipalities to request Material Management Plans for excavated material in building permits and development projects
6. Stronger Conservation Authorities. Conservation Authorities (“CAs”) need to better regulate fill operations.
  - MMAH, Conservation Ontario and AMO to provide model by-laws to municipalities and Conservation Authorities
  - MNR to develop CA regulations to allow them to expand from their current emphasis on flooding
  - For those CAs that do not have fill policies in place, articulate requirements for large scale fill operations in a Policy document (e.g., CLOCA’s Large Fill Policy)
  - Require a meaningful amount of financial assurance to deal with any potential future GPO AGM PLENARY 2015 liabilities
  - Improved coordination/consultation between municipalities and Conservation Authorities on applications for large-scale fill
7. Better Rehabilitation or Restoration of Mineral Aggregate Operations. The MNR 2015 review of Aggregate Resources Act to consider fill impacts for soil quality and landform conservation.
  - Link to MOECC fill regulations for rehabilitation
  - Undertake bioregional landscape planning and rehabilitation
  - Mechanisms such as conservation easements for long term protection. Increasing amount of movement, no one monitoring movement, no definition of clean fill. Massive berms on prime farmland, full of contaminants. No monitoring. OSRTF has been meeting with MNR.

## 2.13. Topsoil Preservation Act

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will tighten the regulation of topsoil removal and sales on a provincial and administrative basis according to the Topsoil Preservation Act.

## 2.14. Community Land Trusts

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will establish a program to set aside 25 % of Ontario's farmlands near Urban centres as community land trusts. These lands will be purchased at a fair market value as they became available and turned over to municipalities with the purpose of establishing local sources of food production;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that organizations committed to the preservation of agricultural land will establish a "conservation easement program" for the preservation of land valuable to the public and liable to be removed from agricultural use, by purchasing the development rights to the land and turning them over to a public body insulated from the government of the day and from municipal governments, to be held, except in the most exceptional cases, in perpetuity.

## 2.15. Hemp Cultivation

**WHEREAS** hemp growers in England have a return of \$3000 per acre, compared to the \$290 per acre that Canadians farmers get for grain;

**WHEREAS** hemp can be grown for the production of biomass as a clean alternative to fossil fuels. An estimated 3 million acres of hemp will replace all of Canada's fossil fuel demands;

**WHEREAS** an acre of hemp will produce as much pulp for paper as 4 acres of trees over a twenty year period. Current paper mills are convertible to hemp;

**WHEREAS** hemp paper-making process requires no dioxin-producing chlorine bleach and uses 75% less sulphur- based acid;

**WHEREAS** until the late 1800s, 80% of all paper was made with hemp fibre. It can be recycled 4 times more than pulp paper;

**WHEREAS** hemp can be grown in Canada, cotton cannot. Hemp cloth is stronger, more durable, warmer and more absorbent than cotton;

**WHEREAS** hemp requires no herbicide, fungicide or insecticide applications and will grow in poor soils;

**WHEREAS** hemp oil for culinary uses has long been established and the seed is high in vitamins and protein. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage the cultivation of low-THC hemp for more ecological fossil fuels, paper, cloth fibre production.

## 2.16. Animal Rights

### 2.16.1. Hunting and Fishing

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ban trapping with the leg-hold trap;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for a strategy that will re-establish predators such as the wolf and lynx in southern Ontario. We will eliminate predator bounties;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase funding to conservation officers to stop illegal sport hunting and poaching, and increase the penalties for poaching;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ban hunting, trapping and fishing in all protected areas, including all classes of provincial parks, conservation areas and Crown game preserves;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ban hunting for sport (as distinguished from hunting for sustenance) including the banning of killing of wildlife for entertainment, recreation or trophies.

### 2.16.2. Animals in Agriculture

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will establish and enforce standards for the care of farm animals;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will outlaw the use of furs on ornamental, as opposed to survival, clothing;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will *expeditiously* phase out battery farming and *intensive* animal husbandry;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ban the sale and production of milk fed veal and any other agricultural practices requiring continuous close confinement;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage a reduction in meat consumption with an educational campaign;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will regulate the transport of animals where necessary, especially animals transported long distances for slaughter, to ensure their well-being;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ban the use of growth stimulants in animals and the routine use of antibiotics in animal feeds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will end breeding practices that render animals in systemic, chronic pain.

### 2.16.3. Animals in Research

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the use of animals should be banned from all testing of cosmetics and household products.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that strict care should be placed on the ethical practice surrounding animal-based research, and alternatives should be used in any circumstances where the outcome would not be affected.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ensure additional non-invasive teaching methods are available (i.e., interactive digital and tactile models, job shadowing hours, and videos).

### 2.16.4. Animals as Entertainment

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ensure that animals imported for zoos were born in captivity or are part of projects to save a threatened species;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that no new forms of entertainment using animals (such as dog racing, rodeos, bullfighting) are introduced.

### 2.16.5. Animals kept in Zoos, Menageries, and Aquaria

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will call for the Ontario SPCA Act to be revised to bring zoos, menageries, and Aquaria under the regulatory auspices of the SPCA with mandated standards of care specific to each type of animal kept and to provide the SPCA with the tools for supervision and enforcement of the regulations;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the keeping of whales, dolphins (cetaceans) be prohibited and regulations created for grandfathered animals;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SPCA Act be revised to require a permit for all existing and future zoos, menageries, and aquaria setting out specific standards of housing, enclosure, and care of each type of animal kept.

### 2.16.6. Strengthen the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act

**WHEREAS** animals are currently recognized and treated by the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* exclusively as property;

**WHEREAS** this recognition of animals as property leads to the systemic failure to recognize the animal's interest, welfare and safety in cases where criminal charges of animal abuse have been laid;

**WHEREAS** the above situation routinely leads to animal abuse cases in which the length of criminal proceedings and the cost of animal care by the OSPCA during this period, combined with a lack of options for interim care, creates an incentive for the OSPCA to kill the animals in order to reduce the burden on the organization;

**WHEREAS** jurisdictions such as the Province of Quebec have recently implemented legislation to remedy the problems outlined above, with its *Act to Improve the Legal Situation of Animals*;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario work to reform the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* to:

- Give regard to an animal's welfare and safety where criminal abuse of animals has been alleged;
- Prioritize the interests of an animal ahead of that of the owner or custodian where there is reasonable cause to believe that said owner has caused illegal distress to said animal;
- Create an interim hearing process to consider an animal's welfare and safety prior to the conclusion of a criminal case; and
- Permit the issuance of judicial orders to transfer animals without the requirement of a criminal conviction where determined to be in the animal's best interest.

DEFINITION: "Animals" means non-human animals.

## 2.17. Sustainable Farming and Food Production

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will adopt a special strategy for the development and promotion of

profitable and sustainable farming and food production in Ontario with, at minimum, the following objectives:  
To identify provincially-significant farmland on which farming will be regarded as the highest and best use;  
To facilitate the production of food for consumption in Ontario;  
To facilitate the retention of family-owned farms, farming by experienced farmers among new Canadians, and the succession of farms to a younger generation of farmers;  
To set aggressive targets for the purchase of products from Ontario farms by the Province and MUSH sector (municipalities, colleges, universities, school boards and hospitals);  
To invest in rural infrastructure supporting packaging, processing, storage and distribution facilities for Ontario produce.

## 2.18. Healthy Food Access

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase access to healthy food to persons and families on low incomes by granting food allowances and tax credits, with an emphasis on food that is produced locally, sustainably and ethically;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that tax credits will be provided to local farmers and processors who donate products to local food banks;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will initiate a school meals program to support healthy eating and improved access to food for Ontario's children, with an emphasis on food that is produced locally, sustainably and ethically;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will level the playing field for healthy, local, sustainable and ethically sourced foods by reducing subsidies and green tax cuts.

## 2.19. Abattoirs

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate strongly for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to ease the regulatory pressure on small abattoirs and to work with small processors and the local food community to ensure small abattoirs are both viable and responsive to government safe food regulation.

## 2.20. Live Green, Eat Green

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario recognizes the environmental impact of a predominantly meat based diet.

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario also recognizes the need for society's transition towards a predominantly plant-based diet. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario shall apply society's need for a transition towards a predominantly plant-based diet as a guiding principle throughout relevant policy;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario shall advocate for the removal of subsidies for unsustainable animal agriculture practices and provide transition tools for farmers to move to more sustainable forms of agriculture.

# Chapter 3. Attorney General

## 3.1. Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation

**WHEREAS** The Green Party of Ontario has long advocated for the protection of individuals and groups engaged in matters of public interest from being the victims of a strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP).

**WHEREAS** Protecting people's freedom of expression from undue interference and encouraging the public to participate in our democracy is a core value of the Green Party of Ontario.

**WHEREAS** While anti-SLAPP legislation in Ontario was created in 2015, it is not fully inclusive as the new legislation is not retroactive.

**WHEREAS** This means current anti-SLAPP legislation only protects individuals and groups from a SLAPP from December 1, 2014 (the day the Bill creating the new legislation was introduced) onwards.

**WHEREAS** Defendants of a SLAPP that began before December 1, 2014 are not protected by the new legislation, even though these individuals and groups were, in part, the inspiration for an anti-SLAPP law.

Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario continues to support the retroactivity of anti-SLAPP legislation to ensure the protection of any and all individuals and groups who are victims of SLAPP and other procedural abuses including frivolous proceedings.

## 3.2. Restorative Justice

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports a restorative justice system that will allow victims of crime to meet their offenders in a safe, respectful, and controlled environment;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this meeting will be used to explore and discuss the effects of the crime and the ways in which healing can take place;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these types of meetings and their outcomes will then be used in establishing proper sentences or in determining the eligibility of parole for criminals;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that restorative justice will also enable punishments for minor crimes to be more focused on helping the criminal understand why their behaviour is not acceptable to their community, and society.

## 3.3. Crime Prevention

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will extend crime prevention programs to at risk individuals, families, and neighbourhoods;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that programs geared toward individuals will include counselling, addiction relief workshops, and life management courses;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that family initiatives will provide family counselling, conflict resolution skills, parenting strategies, and family bonding programs;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that programs for communities will include neighbourhood recreation, education, and infrastructure improvement programs.

## 3.4. Clarification of the Role of Lawyers in the Judicial System

**WHEREAS** a fair Judiciary is essential to ensure that inequalities in society are not reinforced in our legal system.

**WHEREAS** inequalities can be found between socioeconomic groups, between the judicial system and private individuals, and between our legal system and the accused. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase the public's accessibility to the legal system;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the accused will be treated with more care to ensure that they can return to a normal life if they are found innocent;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will require that all legal documents be written in accessible language;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide funding for legal costs in cases involving social justice, employment equity, and environmental rights.

### 3.5. Gender rights

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario supports the belief that transgender identity and gender expression are critical to a person's health and well being and that harassment and discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression constitutes a human rights violation. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the specific inclusion of the terms, 'gender identity' and 'gender expression' in the Ontario Human Rights Code;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports smoother transition for transgendered persons at the beginning of their transition to change necessary official provincial identification documents that incorporate the designation of sex such as, but not limited to: driver's licenses, health cards, etc.

### 3.6. Addictive Drugs

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will treat addictive drug use holistically and through a wide variety of individualized treatment programs covered by OHIP, depending on the assessed and agreed upon needs of the patient with a certified addiction counselor. Treatments may include but not be limited to: in-house (residential) treatment of both short-term and long-term programs, sweat lodges, Rational Recovery (RR), Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotic Anonymous (NA) , Detox Centres, treatment specifically designed for identifiable target groups and/or substance abuse (i.e., adolescents or ecstasy and other complementary healing programs);  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all programs will be evaluated for effectiveness and success rates and money will be allotted accordingly;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that suspected students users and those who self identify addictive drug use will be offered immediate access to treatment by the school nurse without prejudice before any disciplinary action can occur;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that drug awareness and education shall be introduced early in the health course content and a continuous theme in school health education.

# Chapter 4. Children and Youth Services

## 4.1. Childcare

**WHEREAS** 88% of Ontario children under the age of 12 who need childcare are without access to regulated spaces;

**WHEREAS** 50,000 Ontario children are on the waiting list for regulated spaces, prompting experts to call Ontario's day care situation a "crisis";

**WHEREAS** More women than ever before are working outside of the home, making the lack of affordable, accessible child care arguably the single most pressing issue for Ontario families;

**WHEREAS** The number of regulated childcare spaces available will continue to shrink in 2009 as additional subsidized spaces disappear – leaving behind our most vulnerable;

**WHEREAS** The ability for a parent to access affordable, high quality childcare has been shown to be the fastest path out of poverty for the family, offering hope for many Ontario families;

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario recognizes the value to society of family members who choose to care for children by paying them for raising children for their first three years;

**WHEREAS** parents have the right to choose childcare options that best suit their circumstances, given the wide spectrum of parenting approaches among Canadian families;

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario recognizes the solid evidence that breastfeeding is one of the most effective health prevention measures available;

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario acknowledges the singular importance of a positive birthing experience to parent and child;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the universal access to high-quality, affordable, flexible, private and publicly-funded, non-profit childcare in both urban and rural areas;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will require that remuneration of day care workers appropriately reflects the importance of their work;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports parents and primary caregivers through extended paid maternity and parental leaves, by encouraging job-sharing options, flexible work hours, workplace daycare, and availability of personal days to care for sick children;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide a high quality day care system with professional standards and training required for daycare workers.

## 4.2. Parenting

**WHEREAS** it is well known that how we care for our children will ultimately determine how people care for each other and the earth.

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario sees parenting as a valuable investment not only in the well-being of our children, but in the future of our society as a whole.

**WHEREAS** real support for parenting should be provided instead of encouraging people to work for short term economic gain which in the end creates enormous stress on families and diminishes both social and human resources.

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario believes in subsidizing parents to look after their own children;

**WHEREAS** the implementation of a Green Party Childcare policy will facilitate parents in taking time from work to raise their children;

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario has the aim of enriching family life, diminishing stress, and improving the overall health of our society;

**WHEREAS** it is important to recognize that many of the pressures for day care come from a consumer society in which parents both work to accumulate more belongings than needed for a balanced lifestyle.

**WHEREAS** a guaranteed annual income and community land trusts will make it increasingly less necessary for families to have two incomes to survive.

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario recognizes that there is a wide spectrum of needs and parenting approaches in the population with many possible solutions to parental and childcare needs.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will facilitate access to doulas, midwives and birthing centres;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement extensive and intensive parenting education for every boy and girl before he or she reaches an age when conception is a possibility;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will offer early childhood specialists as a resource for parents where desired or needed to address parenting issues;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will work to strengthen communities to increase community cohesion, trust, and a sense of belonging which would, among other benefits, provide increased parental support.

# Chapter 5. Community and Social Services

## 5.1. Public Housing

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will allow the private sector to produce more public housing in mixed communities by introducing minimum standard zoning legislation that will, over a multi-year period, allow a percentage of new housing units produced by private firms to be devoted to affordable inclusive housing;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will waive development levies and taxes for all affordable house construction or the province will accept responsibility for those fees.

## 5.2. Social Work

**WHEREAS** the lack of funding to family services and the incredible caseload of social workers are crippling our ability to assist individuals to be active members of the community;

**WHEREAS** currently the caseload of social workers is as high as one worker dealing with 300 families;

**WHEREAS** the cost of inaction is much higher than the cost of action. Therefore,

**WHEREAS** the increase in spending will be offset by a dividend of increased employment, increased detection of child abuse, sexual abuse and an increase number of individuals who become functioning members of society again.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would recommend an increase in the funding made available to social workers and a reduction in the caseload of social workers such that the caseload of social workers should be reduced to 1:30.

## 5.3 Birth Control and Family Support Services

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would support family planning clinics based in the community;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would stress sex education that puts sex into a biological, emotional and social context with emphasis on respect and responsibility;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would fund research to develop effective and safe methods of birth control for both men and women.

## 5.4. Provincially Funded Insurance Coverage for Community Volunteers

**WHEREAS** many Ontario residents donate prodigious amounts of time and effort, and often even cover their own expenses, in providing cultural, social and recreational opportunities for the benefit of citizens and visitors alike; and

**WHEREAS** all those who partake of these opportunities enjoy living and lifestyle benefits, and the province gains from people's expenditures and significantly lowered service costs; and

**WHEREAS** the people providing these facilities and services are increasingly being subjected to others' vindictiveness and opportunism through often-unwarranted liability claims, to which the courts are sometimes awarding considerable amounts in damages; and

**WHEREAS** this problem has grown to the point where many volunteers, including entire groups, are now terminating their services rather than risk their own financial ruination; and

**WHEREAS** the volunteers who do such things for the general well-being of society shouldn't have to buy insurance simply to protect themselves from such things as other people's foolishness or carelessness, or their outright inability to handle the rigors of certain activities; and

**WHEREAS** paid staff of some companies sometimes volunteer their labor for charity events from which benefits go to the whole of society, but these people do that work without any coverage for on-the-job injury;

**WHEREAS** many of these volunteers, although perhaps working on very similar projects, are quite unaware of one

another, which makes it easy for the insurance industry to sell them separate policies, each of these being much costlier per person than a joint policy will be; and

**WHEREAS** an "opportunity" is defined here as either a "feature" (this might include things like recreational trails, or picnic tables built and maintained by a "Friends of ..." group), or hosting an "event" (such as a sports competition, or a cultural or community festival), or supplying a service (like an ESL course or a skills upgrading program for new Canadians).

Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide, at no expense to any person who assists in the development, maintenance or operation of a provincially or municipally approved recreation, social, or cultural opportunity\*, a policy of all-inclusive liability insurance to protect such persons and their organizations from claims for civil damages and losses, unless they are found to be due to willful injury or negligence, as discussed in the Occupiers' Liability Act. This coverage will apply not only in public facilities and on public land, but also on private land, and to the owner(s) of such properties, where the volunteering person or group applying for coverage has a landholder agreement with the property owner, and the activity can be classified as a provincially or municipally recognized opportunity that is openly available to the public, and beneficial to participants.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Province should cover the premiums of workplace injury insurance for anyone who works unpaid at their regular job if they are doing so for a charity event.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, while the Province will have the ability to exact due diligence in requiring certain details and information from those who apply for this program's liability coverage, it will also ensure the insurance is provided to all eligible applicants within two months of receiving their application.

## 5.5. Social Housing Investment Fund

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will divert 50% of annual budget surpluses to accumulate a trust fund of \$5 billion dollars to be used to facilitate long-term financially sustainable housing solutions for people at risk of homelessness.

## 5.6. Police Accountability

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the Ombudsman in the call for a more robust system of civilian police oversight through reform of the S.I.U.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario advocates a comprehensive approach to addressing issues of police accountability that acknowledges the social, cultural, and institutional factors that inform police conduct.

## 5.7. Sheikh-Larkin Social Assistance Reforms

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports streamlining social assistance programs through the implementation of the remaining recommendations of the Sheikh-Larkin Commission.

# Chapter 6. Democratic Renewal

## 6.1. Increasing Voter Turnout

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage Elections Ontario, a non-partisan agency of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, to continue to explore and implement changes to the conduct of elections that are designed to increase voter participation;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports in principle the following measures designed to increase voter turnout:

1. Increasing the availability of advance polls.
2. Increasing the number of mobile polls that serve residences for seniors and persons living with disabilities.
3. At a general election, holding regular polls on one or both days of the weekend.

## 6.2. Local Public Input

**WHEREAS** the Green Party value of decentralization says that better decisions are made closest to the community;

**WHEREAS** provincial planning on behalf of community residents can be made stronger when further inclusion is given in decision making;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase the quality and quantity of local public input in provincial decision-making by creating new channels to give citizens a voice, both through MPPs and ministries.

## 6.3. Consultation and Accountability

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the development of regular public forums in which riding constituents are invited to speak to each other, and with their constituency MPP in a non-partisan way;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that when it is possible, everyone attending such meetings will be invited to speak;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Green Party of Ontario candidates and Green MPP's regard these forums as a means of articulating local democratic will, which serves to advise the elected constituency MPP;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Green constituency MPP's are requested to vote according to their conscience, but with due respect to the values and policy of the party, and the democratic will of their constituents.

## 6.4. Publication of Public Opinion Polls

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will amend the Ontario Election Finances Act to include the publication of public opinion polls about popular support for a party, party leader or an individual candidate as a form of campaign advertising in the context of the limitation of campaign advertising in the blackout period on general polling days and the day before general polling days.

## 6.5. Campaign Finance

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will work to pass legislation to establish that: Contributions to Ontario political parties, constituency associations and candidates by corporations including unions shall be illegal, and only natural persons may make political contributions to political parties, constituency associations and candidates contesting Ontario provincial elections; and effective penalties for contravention shall be established.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the system of tax credits for Ontario political contributions shall continue substantially as it exists in 2011.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that there shall be established a maximum total of contributions of initially \$2000 per donor for all political parties, constituency associations

and candidates combined in any calendar year, and in any campaign period as if it were a separate calendar year, and the limits shall be periodically adjusted for inflation, and effective penalties shall be provided for contravention.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the provisions of the Ontario Election Finances Act regarding the reimbursement of campaign expenses to candidates and payments to

parties shall be amended to reduce the percentage of the popular vote required from 15% to 5% in a given constituency.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the primary mode of political financing shall be the allocation of a reasonable amount per vote cast in the previous provincial election to eligible parties. A party needs to get 0.5% of the provincial popular vote in the previous provincial election to qualify for annual funding.

## 6.6. Electronic Voting

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will require any automated voting systems used by the province of Ontario or its municipalities be subject to the following principles:

- All votes should be recorded on a paper ballot, for possible recount.
- That the systems should provide feedback to the voter that their vote was recorded properly
- That sample systems (not connected to the election in question) should be made available for inspection by any member of the public
- That the complete specifications for the system will be made available to the public at least one year in advance of its use. This specification to include both physical design specifications, as well as software source code used in the system.
- No modifications may be made to the specification for two months preceding the election.
- No limitations on the public will be acceptable - that is, members of the public will not be asked to sign any kind of constraint, such as a non-disclosure agreement.

## 6.7. Voting Age Reduced to 16

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will amend the Ontario Election Act so that the definition of an elector includes Canadian citizens who on the general polling day have attained the age of sixteen.

## 6.8. Youth Engagement

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase youth engagement in civil society and democratic decision-making by:

- reviewing, enhancing and increasing civics curriculum in elementary and secondary education, and in the community;
- partnering with and empowering municipalities, community and youth-led organization to educate and involve young people in
- decision-making and support mentorship programs;
- funding community-led and cultural civic education programming;
- reaching out to consult youth in provincial decision-making through the formation of youth advisory councils in ministries.

## 6.9. Increasing Democratic Involvement for Underrepresented Groups

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase democratic involvement among all Ontarians by:

- increasing voter turnout goals and plans, and measuring progress;
- supporting campaign schools to support those interested in running for provincial or municipal office;
- supporting programs which engage women and underrepresented communities in politics;
- create a commission to foster a more representative municipal voting system.

## 6.10. Municipal Election Financing

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will work to pass legislation to establish that:

- Contributions to candidates in Ontario municipal election from corporations including unions shall be illegal, i.e. only natural persons may contribute to the election of candidates in Ontario municipal elections.
- No person may contribute more than \$1000 to the election of all municipal election candidates in Ontario combined.
- Effective penalties for contravention shall be provided.
- There shall be established a tax credit system for candidates for Ontario municipal elections, financed by the province and refundable in the same manner as contributions for provincial elections.

## 6.11. Municipal Vote to Noncitizens

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will amend the Municipal Elections Act to extend the municipal vote to non-citizen residents of a municipality.

## 6.12. Municipal and Regional Electoral Reform

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would work to amend the Municipal Elections Act to establish that the requirement for the use of mandatory plurality voting in Ontario municipal and regional elections shall be abolished;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would amend the Ontario Municipal Elections Act to require that in all municipal and regional councils shall be elected by the proportional form of the single transferable vote (PR-STV, otherwise known as quota-preferential voting) in multi-seat wards, and that mayors and reeves shall be elected by the alternative vote otherwise known as instant runoff voting, whether they are elected (at the choice of the municipality) directly by the citizens or by councils;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that multi-seat wards may be plural or may comprise the entire municipality in one constituency, at the choice of the municipality;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that there shall be no stipulation in the Act as to the number of seats per ward other than that it shall be 2 or more.

## 6.13. Ontario Ombudsman

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the ongoing adoption of improved practices by the Ombudsman for Ontario

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports empowering the Ombudsman of Ontario to address complaints regarding municipal government agencies, universities, colleges, school boards, hospitals, long-term care facilities, police services, and children's aid societies.

## 6.14. Voter Recall Initiative

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement legislation that enable the recall of elected members of provincial parliament and enable municipalities to enact similar recall legislation

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement legislation that enable the recall of legislative acts and enable municipalities to recall municipal bylaws

## 6.15. Voting and Citizenship

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will initiate constitutional amendments necessary to allow the extension of voting rights to permanent residents to vote in Ontario.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate a timely process for citizenship approval at the national level.

## 6.16. Electoral Reform for Proportional Representation

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate to amend the Ontario Elections Act forthwith to provide all Ontario citizens with proportional representation in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

## 6.17. Affirming Principles of Responsible Government

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports clarifying rules around the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will oppose any calling of a snap early election by a Premier, without the Premier either first offering resignation to the Lieutenant Governor or else receiving clear parliamentary support.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports a standalone constitutional amendment package including the following:

- Establish a deadline for the Legislative Assembly to be summoned within 30 days after any general election;
- Establish specific fixed election dates every four years, binding both the Premier and the Lieutenant Governor, unless a two-thirds majority of MPPs approve a motion to dissolve parliament for an early election;
- Adopt the "constructive non-confidence" procedure, whereby any non-confidence motion need be explicit and designate the alternative proposed Premier as the will-be successor to the sitting incumbent;
- Require the consent of a two-thirds majority of the Legislative Assembly in order to prorogue parliament.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that should the above proposed constitutional package prove untenable, then the Green Party will instead support models such as those of Britain, New Zealand, and Australia in seeking all-party consensus for the writing of politically-binding cabinet manuals governing the executive's advice to the Lieutenant Governor.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will also support amending Standing Orders to allow opposition parties to initiate non-confidence motions on any opposition days of the Legislative Assembly, according to fixed schedules not amenable to cabinet adjustment.

# Chapter 7. Economic Development and Trade

## 7.1. Ensuring Fiscal Equality for Ontario's Temporary Foreign Workers

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will urge the Ministry of Finance to include a mechanism to consider Temporary Foreign Workers in the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will urge the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to consider a fiscal equality framework where temporary foreign workers (TFW) can access contributions that they may make to the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP).

## 7.2. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will be a trade agreement between Canada and the EU that will change the face of Ontario. Previous exemptions allowed under NAFTA will be eliminated.

This policy is designed to clarify the Green Party of Ontario's position as categorically opposed to CETA and some of the reasons why.

**WHEREAS** If adopted with the current European positions included, CETA will: Severely restrict farmers' ability to save, reuse, exchange and sell seed. CETA adds precautionary seizure provisions to intellectual property rights' enforcement. This means that farmers accused of having a patented gene in their crops or seed could lose their farms, crops, equipment and cash - simply for alleged infringement. The Agreement will extend precautionary seizure provisions to third parties. For example, the owner of a seed cleaning operation whose customer is accused of patent infringement could also have his/her property seized. These expanded intellectual property rights enforcement tools will increase corporate control of our farms, increase seed costs, and destroy farmers' autonomy.

**WHEREAS** leaked documents have shown that Canada and the provinces have failed to protect drinking water and wastewater services from trade rules that, in the current context, will encourage and lock in privatization. Harper's message to the EU, say the organizations, is that Canada's public water will be available for corporations to use to make a profit. In other words water is on the table

**WHEREAS** Europe, on behalf of the big pharmaceutical companies, is pushing for Canada to lengthen the period of its monopoly drug patents and delay the availability of lower-priced generic drugs. The proposed changes will add almost \$3 billion annually to Canada's drug bill. Canada's high prescription drug prices are already a barrier to medically necessary medicines for millions of Canadians, and CETA will only make the situation worse. A second threat to Canada's public healthcare system in the CETA negotiations is the European demand that Canada weaken NAFTA protections that shield Canada's health care system from international trade deals. We fought hard to get these protections and want them strengthened, not eroded.

**WHEREAS** the European Union and European corporations are insisting on full access to procurement by sub-national governments - including municipalities, school boards, universities, hospitals and other provincial agencies - which could significantly reduce or eliminate the right to specify local priorities when public money is invested in goods, services or capital projects.

**WHEREAS** Canadian municipalities have expressed growing concerns with trade agreements and their potential impacts on municipal programs and services and local autonomy.

**WHEREAS** unfettered access to Canadian municipal procurement by European corporations may encourage privatization and reduce economic development options for local communities.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario is opposed to how CETA is being currently negotiated, because it restricts among others, Local Governments and communities from favouring local goods and services and from protecting our natural resources. The GPO is opposed to the Government of Ontario enacting enabling legislation for CETA.

### 7.3. Trans-Pacific Partnership

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario is opposed to how the Trans Pacific Partnership is being currently negotiated, because it is thought to restrict among others, Local Governments and communities from favouring local goods and services and from protecting our natural resources.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario is opposed to the Government of Ontario enacting enabling legislation for Trans Pacific Partnership.

### 7.4. Free Trade Agreements

**BE IT RESOLVED** that free trade agreements should include consultation with, among others, local Governments and communities, including Indigenous peoples, and should favour local goods and services, where reasonable, as well as protect our environment and natural resources.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that free trade agreements should not include investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms.

### 7.5. Employer Health Tax: Lowering Payroll Taxes on Small Business

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Employer Health Tax exemption be raised to make it less expensive for small businesses and entrepreneurs to create jobs.

(note: this resolution was adopted at the 2013 AGM and overlaps with existing policy on the EHT)

### 7.6. Small and Medium Enterprises

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports a review of regulations affecting small and medium sized businesses and family farms using a regulatory framework that incorporates the scale and scope of an enterprise in determining regulations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will track and regularly report regulations required by businesses.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports community-based arts and culture programming.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will prioritize community-based arts and culture programming with grants and support access to all Ontarians to participate in these activities.

### 7.7. Manufacturing Transition

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports assisting manufacturers to transition to new industrial markets through fair, transparent and consistent regulations and by providing loans that are forgivable if there are no layoffs within five years and the loans are used for equipment and training purposes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will require that any assistance contain provisions requiring companies to employ Ontario residents and to produce and service sustainable products.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will offer the same benefits to entrepreneurs and small and medium sized businesses to enter sustainable markets and provide backing to forgivable loans which are analyzed by financial institutions as acceptable risk.

### 7.8. Transforming the Alcohol Distribution System

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports empowering Ontario's craft spirits and wine producers to sell their products in independent off-site locations and specialty stores excluding variety and convenience stores while retaining the government oversight over the spirits and wine industries and their retail locations.

## Chapter 8. Education

## 8.1. Single Public School System English and French

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario currently favours having two publicly funded school systems:

- the French public system
- the English public system

over the four (4) current systems

- the French public system,
- the French Catholic system,
- the English public system and,
- the English Catholic system.

**WHEREAS** the province of Ontario is facing a record deficit, the Green Party values responsibility in government spending and the publicly funded Catholic school system represents vast duplication in spending;

**WHEREAS** providing public funding for one religious school system is incompatible with the Green Party's value of respecting diversity;

**WHEREAS** Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs are effectively working to address bullying of LGBTQ youth, a known 'at-risk' sector, and Ontario Catholic schools trustees' opposition to GSA clubs is incompatible with the Green Party's value of respecting diversity and protecting the safety and well-being of all children;

**WHEREAS** all Ontarians fund our school systems and therefore all Ontarians must have equitable access to the system and a voice in regards to how public money is spent;

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario does not believe that complexity or difficulty is a valid reason for a government to avoid important public policy decisions;

**WHEREAS** the transition to two publicly funded school systems (Anglophone and Francophone) will be a complex change, provinces such as Quebec and Newfoundland & Labrador have made such a change, and the Green Party believes our province can make this change as well; Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will merge our five (5) current Public and Catholic school systems into two publicly funded school systems, the French public system and the English public system, with Francophone and Anglophone boards that strive for the highest possible quality of education in both English and French.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for the importance of fostering excellence in French and English language education.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for the importance of fostering excellence in education everywhere in Ontario for every child in Ontario.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for education quality as the primary metric of the success of our publicly funded school system.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will recognize that students thrive in an environment where they feel safe and welcome.

(The above policy positions replace the some of the current "Basic Services Supplied Equally to All" policy.)

## 8.2. Safe Bicycling Programs and Infrastructure for Ontario Students

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports improvements to both the elementary and secondary school curriculum to provide regular instruction and demonstrations regarding the safe and lawful use of bicycles.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate that publicly funded Ontario schools shall provide a series of bicycle clinics to students appropriate to the grade level, at regular intervals throughout the elementary and secondary years. Such clinics should demonstrate the correct use of the equipment necessary for safe bicycling, techniques for accident prevention, and basic bicycle maintenance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Green Party of Ontario supports programs in Ontario schools that encourage students, parents, guardians, school staff, and community members to frequently bicycle to school.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports dedicated provincial regulations for bicycle related infrastructure improvements:

- On school property;
- On roadways in school zones, and

- In other areas that are expected to be frequented by students, including
- at parks, playgrounds, sports facilities, community centres, and public libraries.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports bicycle-related infrastructure improvements in publicly funded schools that may include:

- Dedicated bicycle paths separated from walkways and play areas;
- Improvements to signage and road markings in school zones;
- Bicycle storage, that may include covered areas and that may include separate areas for students, staff, and visitors;
- Paved and marked cycling areas for student instruction located either on school property or in a suitable public area convenient for school-based instruction.

### 8.3. Equality in Schools

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would remove any corporate or private funding that could influence our publicly funded school system and represent a conflict of interest;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would ensure that basic services are supplied equally to all schools.

### 8.4. Funding of Environment-Related Programs

**WHEREAS** as the world adapts to a new reality of alternative energy technologies, the challenges of climate change and the need for vibrant and sustainable local communities and ecologies in an era of globalization, our post-secondary education system must provide Ontarians with the knowledge and skills required to survive and thrive;

**WHEREAS** there are already emerging challenges in the social, natural and applied sciences, and our post-secondary students and faculty need to begin engaging these challenges proactively. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase research and scholarship money to fund basic research and innovation in alternative energy, climate change remediation and adaptation, and sustainable local development.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage and reward post-secondary institutions that provide useful community and sustainability research supports for local governments, non-profits, social entrepreneurs and businesses.

### 8.5. Class Size and School Size

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will recognize class and school size as factors that greatly influence quality in public education.

### 8.6. Preservation of school buildings

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario seeks to minimize the distances travelled by students and the resources consumed in so doing, and to ensure that schools can be maintained as community and neighbourhood focal points. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will not close existing school buildings where they can be used by a mixture of students in their preferred schooling streams (e.g. bi-lingual, French, Catholic, etc.).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that where an existing school building has become unsuitable it can be modified or rebuilt as required.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the building will be made available to the community as an accessible community resource.

### 8.7. Encouraging Local Curriculum Initiatives

**WHEREAS** the trend towards centralized decision-making control threatens to drown out the voices of these communities.

**WHEREAS** this trend must be balanced so that support is provided for local curriculum initiatives, especially local second language programs.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ensure that Ontario's communities have a hand in developing education that addresses their needs.

## 8.8. Inclusion in Ontario Schools

**WHEREAS** Ontario is a multicultural, multi-religious community. The Green Party of Ontario recognizes that the public school system provides a critical role in promoting intercultural and interreligious tolerance and understanding among students from different backgrounds. This first-hand interaction of students of different backgrounds should be preserved and encouraged by encouraging more secularization (removing religion) of the public school system, and not the reverse. Although Roman Catholics have the right to a Separate School system by way of historical agreements, the present situation is socially more stable than extending this right to other religions. If there is a change it should be toward encouraging the Separate system to be more inclusive, and moving towards one secular public school system.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the critical role of the public school system in promoting intercultural and interreligious inclusion and understanding among students from different backgrounds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ensure that all publicly funded Ontario schools shall be inclusive in terms of religious, cultural and gender diversity.

## 8.9. Mandatory Gym class at all levels of K-12 schooling

**BE IT RESOLVED** that students at all levels of K-12 schools be enrolled in a physical education class as a mandatory part of the school curriculum.

## 8.10. Education Improvements for Students with Special Needs

**WHEREAS** our vulnerable students with special needs deserve improved support;

**WHEREAS** the Ontario schools system is providing a really poor level of support for children dealing with special needs;

**WHEREAS** successful programs, such as the Arrowsmith Program, have been in place for some time in Australia and some private schools;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports improved resources for children with special needs based on expert advice and research findings;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this support should include children with Learning Disorders.

## 8.11. Training, College, University

### 8.11.1 Tuition Rates

**WHEREAS** Ontario tuition rates for post-secondary education have soared since the provincial government and colleges and universities began downloading program costs to students in the mid-1990s.

**WHEREAS** tuition in most programs have tripled in the last fifteen years – newly formed deregulated programs have seen even higher increases.

**WHEREAS** Ontario university students now pay the highest tuition rates in the country.

**WHEREAS** low-income, self-supporting and second-career students are increasingly being forced to take on considerable

personal debt to finance their education.

**WHEREAS** many students mitigate their personal debt obligations through part-time and seasonal work, which limits the time and energy they have to appropriately engage their education.

**WHEREAS** in an era when continued post-secondary education is increasingly necessary for the careers of the 21st century, access to education in Ontario colleges and universities is increasingly becoming a luxury that many cannot afford.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will immediately tie tuition rates to inflation to stop further offloading of costs to students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will reduce post-secondary tuition fees to the national average by 2015 through the reduction of non-essential administrative and capital costs, identification of other potential revenue streams (e.g., continuing education, online education) and increased funding to the system as a whole.

### 8.11.2. Community Colleges

**BE IT RESOLVED** that colleges with university-style/parallel degree programs that may appear, as seen in the poly-technical settings (i.e., Nursing BScN, and similar programs), will be treated as universities for the funding formula for those course with these designations (i.e., 40 hours  $\times$  minimum wage  $\times$  4 weeks = tuition per term);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that other non-degree courses will be free to the student but must be agreed upon with a course advisor as a progressive and workable plan for either employment or personal development if pursued full-time;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that part-time courses need not have this same agreement but shall be limited to 30 courses before a funding formula is initiated, that reflects; number of hours of course  $\times$  2  $\times$  minimum wage = tuition

# Chapter 9. Energy

## 9.1. Provincial Support for the development of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

**WHEREAS**, utility bills represent a major cost of operating costs for home and business owners;

**WHEREAS**, persistent unemployment, particularly in the construction industry, continues to burden our families and communities;

**WHEREAS**, energy security and reliance on fossil fuels continue to threaten public health and the environment;

**WHEREAS**, residential and commercial buildings consume nearly 40% of all electricity and are responsible for 40% of Canadian annual carbon dioxide emissions;

**WHEREAS**, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to homes and businesses can save energy, cut utility bills, create thousands of local jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

**WHEREAS**, the upfront cost and potentially long payback periods prevent property owners from making otherwise cost-effective clean energy improvements;

**WHEREAS**, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs are an innovative local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements – such as energy efficient boilers, upgraded insulation, new windows, solar installations, etc. – to their homes and businesses;

**WHEREAS**, twenty-two states have passed laws enabling local governments to develop PACE programs. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will develop an Ontario wide Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Green Party of Ontario will develop a financial mechanism to enable PACE in all municipalities that wish to take part

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Green Party of Ontario will actively encourage the development of PACE programs in municipalities

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Green Party of Ontario will actively promote to and enables all Ontarians to partake in PACE programs

## 9.2. Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracking for Natural Gas in Ontario

**WHEREAS** the explosion of hydraulic fracking (fracking) in the US and the start of the use of this process in Ontario is a huge threat to our drinking water and farm land that cannot be allowed without further study into its safety.

**WHEREAS** fracking is the process by which millions of litres of water mixed with chemicals, many of which are toxic are forced underground into shale beds in order to shatter the shale beds and release the gas and most of the fracking mixture.

**WHEREAS** a typical fracking job uses about 15,000,000 litres of water mixed with toxic chemicals.

**WHEREAS** most wells are fracked several times. This usually takes about 200 truck loads to deliver the water.

**WHEREAS** most of the fracking fluid comes back out and is usually disposed of by pouring into a large open pit until it evaporates. Some of it remains in the ground in our watersheds.

**WHEREAS** sometimes the fracking fluid will be taken to water treatment plants.

**WHEREAS** the problem with this is the fracking compounds are not revealed as they are a trade secret and the treatment plant may be ill equipped to handle what it does not know about.

**WHEREAS** there have been thousands of cases of drinking water contamination across North America from fracking.

**WHEREAS** families have been able to light their tap water on fire and although this may be a neat party trick the health implications are dire.

**WHEREAS** cattle have taken ill and died and farmland has been contaminated.

**WHEREAS** shattering the shale beds with fracking fluids has unknown effects on our watersheds.

**WHEREAS** the sheer volume of water used is a giant burden on our watersheds

**WHEREAS** the sheer volume of waste fracking fluid has no place to go

**WHEREAS** the contamination of drinking water has been documented thousands of times around fracking sites

**WHEREAS** the second major pollutant from fracking is methane. Methane leaks from fracking site into our atmosphere. Methane has 25 times the effect on Atmospheric warming compared to CO2.

**WHEREAS** in Texas 90% of the rigs tested were leaking methane into our atmosphere.

**WHEREAS** people have taken to the street in protests in Quebec as fracking near the St Lawrence has begun with 31 sites operating already.

**WHEREAS** we have a global responsibility as citizens of this planet not to increase global warming in our greed for energy.

**WHEREAS** considering the amount of water used and waste created and the energy used to bring this water to the site; fracking is to the Gas industry as the Tar sands are to the Oil industry.

**WHEREAS** New York State has imposed a moratorium on fracking out of concern for its drinking water supply Pennsylvania has seen bitter arguments as people are concerned about their water supply and health.

**WHEREAS** the Toronto Star reported in March that Calgary-based Mooncor Oil & Gas Corp. has been buying land rights in south western Ontario for shale gas drilling.

**WHEREAS** Mooncor intends to drill in the Kettle Point Formation known as Antrim Shale in Lambton and Kent counties, and the Collingwood/Blue Mountain formations known as Utica Shale. "It has already locked up nearly 23,000 acres (9.30776 hectares) of land in Lambton and Kent counties."

**BE IT RESOLVED** that due to the enormous threat to our water, our food security, global warming and human health, the Green Party of Ontario will impose a moratorium on the Process of Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural gas in the province of Ontario until it is proven beyond any reasonable doubt that it has no detrimental effect on our watersheds, our farm lands, our air quality, on human health, or that is adds to global warming.

## 9.3. Fiscal Tools and Incentives

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will:

- Use a comprehensive array of economic instruments such as taxes and other charges on energy sources and especially on fossil fuels, to "internalize" the "external" costs which they impose on the public.
- Create provincial regulation that shall make it profitable for suppliers of electricity, natural gas and heating oil to sell to their customers equipment for energy saving through charges on their regular bills over a period of time, in effect loaning capital to their customers for energy saving.
- Encourage the use of taxes, charges and, when necessary, regulation, to reduce the scale of energy use, and especially of fossil fuel use, to a level compatible with our reduction targets.
- Eliminate subsidies for fossil fuel use.
- Ensure that the taxes and charges described above, other than those which will produce widespread and immediate benefits and little disruption, will be imposed gradually, steadily, and predictably over periods of years, and where appropriate, in concert with other jurisdictions.

### 9.3.1. Renewable Energy Generator Rebate

**WHEREAS** the Ontario government has recently adopted "net-metering" (where a meter records the amount of electricity consumed and the amount of electricity produced by a renewable energy generator such as a wind turbine, and the consumer/producer pays the difference) it did not include any financial assistance to homeowners, a significantly large segment of electricity consumers, to purchase the renewable energy equipment, that may cost in the tens of thousands of dollars, and this is a significant deterrent for most homeowners from taking advantage of net metering.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will accelerate the generation of electricity from renewable energy by encouraging homeowners, the largest segment of electricity consumers, to take advantage of net-metering and become Consumer/Producers by providing a rebate of 25% of the cost of purchasing and installing an electric renewable energy generator to a maximum of \$5000.

### 9.3.2 Support for Renewable Energy Sources

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will:

- Encourage renewable energy production by senior governments to induce economies of scale.
- Consider establishing lending opportunities for proven technologies of renewable energy conversion
- Where the system of Standard Offer Contracts is unsuitable, a net metering option will be offered to suppliers of renewably generated electricity.

### 9.3.3 Planning and Energy use

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will:

- Create changes in land use to reduce the need and the demand for travel and energy requirements.
- Implement measures to improve amenities and the quality of life in local communities to minimize the appeal of and demand for travel and its associated energy use.
- Create a more energy-efficient pattern of transportation emphasizing rail transport, public transit, bicycling and walking, to be accomplished in part by toll charges, by the translation of as much of the cost of car ownership or use as may be practicable, and by the equalization of the tax charges on railway and road users for the land required by the facilities which they use.

## 9.4. Research into Renewables

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will put in place a comprehensive program of research into renewable energy technologies, solar heating, seasonal heat storage, and associated matters such as the maintenance of air quality in energy efficient buildings; and the dissemination of the information obtained to the public.

## 9.5. Renewable Energy Technologies

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage the use of passive solar and other technologies which have "fail-safe" qualities conducive to maintaining life and safety if not comfort under system failures such as the interruption of the supply of fuel or electric power from outside.

## 9.6. Nuclear Power

### 9.6.1. Nuclear Power Generation

**BE IT RESOLVED** that no new nuclear power stations should be built in Ontario and existing nuclear power generating stations should be shut down as soon as may be practicable;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Government of Ontario should use its best efforts to induce the Government of Canada to amend the Nuclear Liability Act to establish that any new nuclear generating stations should be fully insured at the expense of the operators.

### 9.6.2. Nuclear Emergency Planning

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for changes to legislation and regulations on provincial and municipal land use planning and permitting, as well as education and healthcare, to limit the construction of residences, schools, long term care facilities in the vicinity of nuclear reactors and nuclear waste storage;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for a municipal, provincial and federal integrated emergency management plan that takes into account the possibility of a severe accident at an Ontario nuclear generating station, including multiple simultaneous reactor accidents, and to implement measures to improve notification and evacuation of residents, and mitigation of the effects of radiotoxic releases.

### 9.6.3. Management of Nuclear Waste

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will direct the government of Ontario to pursue nuclear waste

management proposals that are based on rolling stewardship, being state custody in perpetuity under institutional control by a public custodian organization independent of the nuclear industry;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will direct the government of Ontario is to direct Ontario Power Generation to discontinue its plans for closure and eventual abandonment of the proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) for low-level waste (LLW) and intermediate-level waste (ILW) at the Bruce site;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will direct Ontario Power Generation to prepare on-site long term storage of nuclear waste at each of its nuclear generating stations, where the integrity of the containment can easily be verified and, if needed, restored.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario is opposed to current or proposed nuclear waste reprocessing or conversion technologies.

## 9.7. Ownership of Power Generation Facilities

**BE IT RESOLVED** that any proposals for the privatization of the production and distribution of electric power must meet our objectives at least as effectively as the methods which we propose, and must provide for the effective regulation of any monopolies or concentrations of economic power capable of influencing the market for electric power in their favour.

## 9.8. Energy Efficiency

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will work to create mandatory standards of energy efficiency for new motor vehicles, for new housing construction, and for new household appliances such as refrigerators and freezers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that professional and technical education and training in universities and colleges shall encompass the full scope of energy efficiency for buildings and processes, and that Ontario's educational institutions shall be assisted in employing some of the world's leading practitioners of energy efficient design as teachers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a program of informing the public about the role of energy in our society and about the need for conservation of energy and full cost pricing including direct instruction in schools, and the use of examples and illustrations incorporating energy and energy efficiency in the teaching of school subjects such as mathematics, chemistry and physics.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will undertake energy retrofits of all public buildings; and will provide incentive programs for homeowners, landlords and businesses for energy retrofits in accordance with green tax shifting principles including forgivable loans for those in demonstrable need.

## 9.9. Smart(er) Meters

**BE IT RESOLVED** that wherever technically and economically practicable, each household and business in Ontario shall be equipped with a device which displays at direction one of the current rate of consumption of electricity, the current charge per kilowatt - hour, the rate at which financial charges are accumulating, and the accumulated charge for the current billing period.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that suppliers of electricity shall be so regulated as to be able to make more profit from equipping their customers with such devices than from not doing so.

## 9.10. Capture and Utilization of Waste Heat

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will use economic inducements and regulation to encourage the capture and utilization of waste heat.

## 9.11. Renewable Energy Users' Association

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage financially, and otherwise, the establishment of readily accessible associations of users of renewable energy converters and in particular wind turbines large and small, which shall collect information from their members on the reliability, durability, first cost and operating cost of their equipment identified by make and model, and the performance of its installers, and publish it to their members.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage the establishment of an international association of users of large industrial wind turbines for similar purposes, and where possible taking joint action with other interested governments.

## 9.12. Green Building Fund and Retrofits

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the establishment of a Green Building Fund to provide homeowners, businesses and municipalities with access to capital to fund building retrofits that increase efficiency and pay for energy demand management projects.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports building retrofits with tax credits, significant public education and advanced training and college programs in green building, design and renovation.

## 9.13. Access to Transmission Capacity for Ontario projects

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement mechanisms to support Ontario businesses, cooperatives, farmers, First Nations and municipalities to access transmission capacity for projects throughout the province.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will prioritize the building of a smart grid to facilitate such projects and support a network of renewable energy, distributed energy production and storage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will mandate all large industrial energy projects to have a local ownership component that will bring a portion of a project's profits to the community or municipality.

## 9.14. Minimum Setbacks for Industrial and Fossil Fuel Energy Plants

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase minimum setbacks for industrial and fossil fuel peaker-style energy plants.

## 9.15. Support for a Federal Energy Plan

**WHEREAS** the Canadian oil industry is uneconomical, and runs contrary to all measures to slow spiraling climate catastrophe, it must be our priority to invest in the repudiation of all dilbit pipeline development, as well as in the establishment of a binding national energy strategy.

**WHEREAS** industry should be required to rehabilitate those areas polluted and otherwise compromised by activities such as fracking and oil extraction from sands.

**WHEREAS** we need to restore our country's place at the forefront of the fight against irreversible climate change.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the creation of a federal energy strategy.

# Chapter 10. Environment

## 10.1. Carbon Fee and Dividend Act

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will establish scientifically-endorsed targets for reducing Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will create a plan, to be audited by the Auditor General of Ontario, for meeting these targets;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for the adoption of a fee for all emissions, at source.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that 100% of the fees will be deposited in trust to an arms length agency to be returned

in the form of dividend payments to every adult resident, and optionally to a children's fund for their future, in order to alleviate the effect of any cost increases due to the imposition of the fee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all existing policies that call for a tax on carbon emissions to be used as general revenue in Ontario be rescinded.

## 10.2. Including a Healthy Environment in the Canadian Constitution

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario declares support for enshrining environmental rights within the Canadian constitution.

## 10.3. Mercury Mitigation in Treaty 3 Lands

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will promote and support mitigating the mercury problems in the Grassy Narrows and White Dog treaty lands, including the sequestration and containment of mercury polluted silt in the river system and the limitation of clear-cut forestry practices in the Whiskey Jack Forest tract to those agreed upon by the First Nation concerned.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that there be continued assessment of the long-term effects of the mercury on the people of White Dog and Grassy Narrows.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the people of White Dog and Grassy Narrows be given priority consultation rights on the sale of logging rights and land and that they maintain their hunting and fishing rights.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that there be continuing study and implementation of all mitigation methods.

## 10.4. Vision for the Great Lakes and Great Lakes Water Basin

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will work with the Federal government and International Joint Commission to bring a coherent vision for the Great Lakes and Great Lakes Water Basin by implementing comprehensive policies and targeting investments that address invasive species, climate change mitigation and adaptation, reduce chemical and biological waste discharge, while enhancing drinking water protection, cleaning contaminated sites and emphasizing water conservation.

## 10.5. Ontario Annual Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will set Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets such that Ontario is carbon neutral by 2050.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target strategies be reviewed and adjusted annually to reflect the latest scientific information on climate change.

## 10.6. Community right-to-know toxics laws

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will empower local decision-making and increase public awareness by instating community right-to-know toxics laws and supporting research on the impact of chemicals present in Ontario on environmental health.

## 10.7. Improvement of environmental assessment and renewable energy approvals

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will improve environmental assessment and renewable energy approvals under the Green Energy and Green Economy Act to better incorporate community feedback and community health assessments, and undertake sustainability assessments on policies, plans and programs to ensure a higher sustainability test for large government and commercial proposals.

## 10.8. Toxic waste

**WHEREAS** Toxic wastes already created must be stored in interim above ground retrievable storage bunkers.

**WHEREAS** This suggestion only works if the entire product responsibility concept is accepted otherwise the amount of waste will be unmanageable. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the criteria for safe storage includes, no spontaneous combustion, no release of gas, no release of liquids.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that to simplify retrieval different kinds of waste and substances will be stored separately.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the user of the building must prove every 5 years that no method of treatment exists.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ownership of the building remains in public control and the owner of the waste remains responsible for the waste and rental of the building.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that above-ground storage bunkers will:

- Enforce the polluter pay principle.
- Encourage the development of alternative technologies for specific waste problems' and discourages waste exporting.
- Avoid over capacity of waste facilities.
- Promote the rethinking of products that produce waste.
- Put the market to work minimizing unmanageable waste.
- Encourage reuse because wastes are not mixed together.
- Make environmentally sound management the responsibility of the producer.
- Guarantee zero discharge technology.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will mandate a deposit and take-back program of toxic materials by making it convenient, standardized and well publicized.

## 10.9. Waste Strategy

**WHEREAS**, Recycling is hindered by tipping fees at garbage dumps that do not accurately reflect the full cost of dumping waste in abandoned quarries.

**WHEREAS** landfill sites leak a leachate that is complex soup of modern chemicals used in the home and industry.

**WHEREAS** the combination of car batteries, soap, water, car oil, transmission fluids, antifreeze, the myriad of toxic chemicals we take for granted percolates through a landfill and pollutes the groundwater around landfill sites.

**WHEREAS** all landfill sites leak.

**WHEREAS** they all pose a very real threat to the health of the community in which they are located.

**WHEREAS** this cost cannot be calculated in considering landfill versus reduction, reuse, rejection or recycling.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement a zero waste strategy for Ontario.

## 10.10. Water Quality

### 10.10.1. Restoration of Water Ecosystems

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will establishing 50 metre buffer zones to protect streams and creeks.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will strengthen current wetland conservation legislation  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will use ecosystem-based watershed management.  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will re-establish flood control basins.  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will withdraw provincial funding for research into or support for Water Diversion Projects.

## 10.10.2. Clean Water Act

**WHEREAS**, much of the drinking water in urban Ontario is laced with dioxins, pesticide residue and heavy metal contamination. A study in Eastern Ontario found that 75% of well water was contaminated with pesticides.

**WHEREAS** the full implications of pesticides, chlorine compounds, municipal dumps, old oil gasification plants and the synergistic effects of all these chemicals in our water supply is not fully understood.

**WHEREAS** the residents of Ontario are entitled to clean drinking water.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage monitoring of standards that require that no toxic contaminants be allowed into our water systems and make results publicly available.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the rights of citizen groups to sue water polluters for losses as well as establishing protection for whistleblowers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide the right to seek judicial review of the Minister of the Environment for failure to perform his or her duties.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will enact a provincial Water Self-Sufficiency Act requiring municipalities to:

- Treat stormwater and sewage on-site or early in the system wherever possible using integrative approaches including UV light, wet ponds, infiltration systems and low impact development (LID) to minimize or eliminate untreated stormwater in our waterways,
- Set targets for site water runoff allowances and encourage use of permeable surfaces over impermeable surfaces
- Encourage the installation of domestic and corporate water conservation measures
- Encourage the Ministry of Environment Regulation #903 that wells taken out of service be capped.

# Chapter 11. Finance

## 11.1. Alternatives to the GDP

**WHEREAS** the organization Redefining Progress has proposed the Genuine Progress Index (GPI) which values sustainability, equity, the ecology and beneficial activities positively, and defensive expenditures and resource depletion negatively.

**WHEREAS** their studies show that since 1950 while GDP has grown in the U.S. fairly consistently, the GPI increased until about 1970 and has decreased since then by about 40%. The real value in an index such as this is when we measure the effects of our policies on GPI instead of GDP.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that in order to de-emphasize economic growth as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and to promote those activities which contribute to the well-being of the people of Ontario, an alternative to the provincial equivalent of the GDP should be made available.

## 11.2. Tax Resource Use and Pollution, Not Income

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will begin a gradual, revenue-neutral tax shift from income and business taxes to natural resource use taxes and pollution taxes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that natural resource use taxes and pollution taxes should be applied early in the production process in order to impact all stages of production and consumption.

## 11.3. Property Taxes

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports a revenue-neutral shift to land value taxation which taxes the value of land irrespective of capital improvements.

## 11.4. Green Tax Cuts

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario's Green Tax Cut will ensure that funds collected from new taxes will be balanced in the form of income, corporate, sales, and other tax cuts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all proposals will be analyzed for their effect on the provincial economy, and programs will be in place to mitigate any impacts of new taxes on persons with low incomes.

## 11.5. Complement to existing GPO Finance Policy

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate fiscal policies that foster ecologically sustainable businesses, green jobs, preserve ecosystems and biodiversity, conserve resources for other species and future generations, shorten the workweek, and ensures a high quality of life and basic economic equity for all;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will propose a natural resource levy so that those who use, monopolize or despoil our common wealth and reducing everyone else's access to and benefit from our common heritage, are obliged to reimburse society for this privilege;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will reduce taxes on labour, business and production and instead generate government revenue through fees and levies on the use and abuse of the global commons and on access to community assets;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will propose a green tax cut that distinguishes between earned and unearned income, and moves the tax burden from the former onto the latter. This shift will unburden the productive economy and instead finance government programs by collecting unearned income;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that institutions and businesses that enjoy access to community-built and tax-supported amenities and infrastructure be required to remit fees in the amount of the economic rent to government as compensation for the privileges granted;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will propose that those who contribute back to the commons could be financially compensated by government. Companies and individuals who forgo income to conserve, protect or restore ecosystems could be partially reimbursed for expenses.

# Chapter 12. Francophone Affairs

## 12.1. Level of Bilingual Services

**BE IT RESOLVED** that any designation by a Provincial Bill of a Municipality or County as bilingual must contain specific minimum criteria defining the level of bilingual services offered by this Municipality or County; and that such criteria will have been developed in advance by the Provincial Government, in consultation with the Municipality/Council and with the civil society residing in this Municipality/Council.

## 12.2. The Franco-Ontarian Flag

**WHEREAS** the Franco - Ontarian flag is a source of pride for Franco - Ontarians who currently comprise 4.8% of the population of Ontario.

**WHEREAS** the flag symbolizes the fact that francophones have been and continue to be part of the history of Ontario. Given that this resolution does not cost any more than the purchase of a flagpole and a flag for institutions receiving at least 33% of their income from the provincial government, this resolution is principally symbolic.

**WHEREAS** however, cultural symbols are important to francophones who feel the need to be accepted and affirmed in a mostly anglophone society.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that organizations receiving more than a third of their funding from the provincial government shall float the Franco - Ontarian flag next to the Canadian and/or Ontario flags, in the 24 regions designated under the French Language Services Act as having a significant minority of francophones.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such regions have either 5,000 Francophones or Francophones make up 10% or more of their population.

## 12.3. Francophone Youth and French language

**BE IT RESOLVED** that for areas under the French Languages Services Act (FLSA), the Provincial Government will establish a voluntary recognition-based incentive program, working in cooperation with local chambers of commerce, for retailers who:

- will employ youth staff who understand both English & French;
- will train staff to recognize which clients prefer to use French.

# Chapter 13. Government Services

## 13.1. Open Data

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the implementation of Open Data principles, as presented below, by the Government of Ontario, the Legislature, agencies, local governments and businesses that manage public data on behalf of the Government.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the creation of an Open Data Portal that will be a centralized index of all open data produced under this policy. The portal will allow ministries, agencies and third party groups to register individual data sets. In addition to facilitating data discovery the portal could provide data retention services in order to guarantee long term availability of public data.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will make all public data available. Public data is data that is not subject to valid privacy, security or privilege limitations. Public data includes but is not limited to administrative data, program specific data, geomatics, vital and other statistics, and maps.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the data is:

- Collected as is at the source, with the highest possible level of granularity, not in aggregate or modified forms.
- Made available as quickly as necessary to preserve the value of the data.
- Available to the widest range of users for the widest range of purposes.
- Structured to allow automated processing.
- Available to anyone, with no requirement of registration.
- Available in a format over which no entity has exclusive control.
- Not subject to any copyright, patent, trademark or trade secret regulation. Reasonable privacy, security and privilege restrictions may be allowed. Where data is released under Crown Copyright the Crown will not attempt to recover costs by way of fees, redistribution restrictions or other licensing restrictions. Modifications and derivative works are permitted.
- Not restricted in licensing terms to any party of selling or giving away a work either on its own or as part of a package made from works from many different sources. The license will not impose royalty or other fees for such sale or distribution.

[Definitions:

“public”: The Open Government Data principles do not address what data should be public and open. Privacy, security, and other concerns may legally (and rightly) prevent data sets from being shared with the public. Rather, these principles specify the conditions public data should meet to be considered “open.”

“data”: Electronically stored information or recordings. (i.e., documents, databases of contracts, transcripts of hearings, and audio/visual recordings of events). While non-electronic information resources, such as physical artifacts, are not subject to the Open Government Data principles, it is always encouraged that such resources be made available electronically to the extent feasible.]

## 13.2. An Open Source Software [OSS] Policy for Ontario

**WHEREAS** the expensive licensing fees that multinational companies like Microsoft charge will increase the total cost of software ownership.

**WHEREAS** OSS is generally lower cost than that of proprietary software.

**WHEREAS** proprietary software that cannot be audited and therefore could potentially contain trapdoors or backdoors that allow access to data or information by unauthorized users.

**WHEREAS** OSS is generally preferred over proprietary software because of the ease at which it can be adapted to local needs.

**WHEREAS** the adoption of open source promotes interoperability, standardization, extension of product life cycle, best business practices, and provides leverage in acquisition practices that are currently unimagined in the world of proprietary licenses, vendor lock in and single-use development practices.

**WHEREAS** there is a need to always procure a solution that gives value for money, whether this is an OSS solution, a proprietary one, or a mixture of both.

**WHEREAS** there is a need to ensure that interoperability of systems is provided and maintained.

**WHEREAS** efforts should be made to reduce the cost and risk to government systems by adopting policies that help achieve this by:

- acquiring best value for money solutions
- removing the reliance on individual IT suppliers
- providing more flexibility in the development, enhancement and integration of systems, and
- vesting the ownership of tailored software code used by Government wherever this offers value for the money

**WHEREAS** security of government systems is vital and properly configured OSS can be at least as secure as proprietary systems.

**WHEREAS** OSS is currently subject to fewer Internet attacks.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Government of Ontario and all public sector entities will consider open source software (OSS) solutions alongside proprietary ones in IT procurements.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that contracts will be awarded on a value for money basis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that open source software solutions be used within all Government of Ontario IT enterprise environments for the benefit of government agencies and public sector entities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Government of Ontario and all public sector entities will only use products for interoperability that support open standards and specifications in all future IT developments.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Government of Ontario and public sector entities will seek to avoid lock-in to proprietary IT products and services.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Government of Ontario and public sector entities will consider obtaining full rights to software code or custom Commercial off-the-shelf software it procures wherever this achieves best value for money.

### 13.3. Conflict of Interest and Public Research

**WHEREAS**, there may be a conflict of interest if an individual is in a position of influence at a public research institution and in a private organization using results of research.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that there is a period of time during which an individual leaving the employ of a public research institute or leaving private sector employment to join a public research institute will be prohibited from lobbying such an institute.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during their terms of office, a member of the governing board of a public institution in Ontario not hold a position with or have interests in corporations that benefit from research at that public institution.

### 13.4. Evidence-Based Program Review

**WHEREAS** many Ontarians think government is too big and unwieldy;

**WHEREAS** many Ontarians question the effectiveness of existing programs;

**WHEREAS** a lack of transparency and accountability helps hide waste and inefficiency;

**WHEREAS** spending decisions would be more effective if they were based on evidence, not interest groups or lobbyists;

**WHEREAS** it is good practice to be continually evaluating program performance, and adjusting it to improve efficiency and outcomes;

**WHEREAS** some government programs may well have outlived their usefulness, and should be objectively analysed;

**WHEREAS** government spends billions of tax dollars with minimal review by the legislature, dedicated bodies (such as the Auditor General) or responsible departments;

**WHEREAS**, both the United States and United Kingdom governments are finding policy making is more effective when based on evidence; and

**WHEREAS** policy based on strong evidence is harder for MPPs to ignore or undo.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Green Party of Ontario will call for 1% of each major program's spending to be reserved for objectively evaluating the effectiveness of that program, and reporting the findings to the legislature and the public.

## Chapter 14. Health and Long-Term Care and

# Health Promotion

## 14.1. Junk Food Tax

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will seek to introduce and support legislation to create a tax on junk food, and that the revenues be used to fund school food programs and subsidize the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables for those with low income.

## 14.2. Long Term Care for the Chronically Ventilated

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide long term care that meet the needs of the chronically ventilated in their communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that long term care should be provided at the person's primary residence or through a residential group home in their community.

## 14.3. Health Care: Health Maintenance

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario believes that the best way to create a healthy society is through a healthy lifestyle.

**WHEREAS** this philosophy of disease prevention and health maintenance will reduce the need for treating preventable diseases, which is presently very costly.

**WHEREAS** by making our environment and communities healthier places in which to live and work, we will see a reduction in many diseases.

**WHEREAS** our current healthcare system concentrates on treatment, rather than prevention, of disease allowing unnecessary suffering to occur.

**WHEREAS** treatments often only partially alleviate suffering, and often cause harm themselves.

**WHEREAS** one disease is treated at a time, and little is done to improve the overall health of the body.

**WHEREAS** health care is focused on expensive high-technology machines rather than on people.

**WHEREAS** this faulty focus away from personal responsibility for our own health is symbolized by the name of the provincial insurance plan that pays the fees of medical doctors, the costs of expensive diagnostic and surgical equipment, of hospitals and their staff, almost entirely for disease care and almost nothing for health promotion.

**WHEREAS** there are opportunities for tremendous reduction in disease rates by preventive measures.

**WHEREAS** this approach will both improve the quality of life of the average resident of Ontario and conserve health care tax dollars.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would promote healthy lifestyle changes through educational campaigns and incentives to encourage better nutrition, exercise, avoidance of drugs, and techniques such as stress management;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that adaptation tools for other health factors such as poor air, soil and water quality and environmentally induced diseases will be provided;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that programs for the cessation of smoking, drinking alcohol, or using other addictive drugs will be fully funded through OHIP provided they are reasonably cost-effective in comparison to similar programs;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that research and application of ergonomics will be encouraged to reduce the incidence of injury in the workplace and the home;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the use of a "social determinants of health" lens to review major government spending and planning that impacts personal health and well-being, especially those programs which affect the social safety net, community planning, health, environmental protection, education, work and equity.

## 14.4. Early Health Strategy

**BE IT RESOLVED** that women will be encouraged to breastfeed by providing all prospective parents with accurate information on the advantages of breastfeeding;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide public education about the benefits of breastfeeding;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a woman's right to breastfeed in public will be protected;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the World Health Organization's Code of Marketing of breastmilk substitutes will be enacted as legislation in Ontario to protect women and their babies from misleading advertising;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that hospitals and birthing centres will be required to satisfy the "baby-friendly hospital" guidelines of the World Health Organization and UNICEF;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that prenatal education and post-natal support will be provided;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide education to parents and children about making healthy living choices through improved prenatal classes, increased physical education in schools, and greater collaboration between daycares and local parks and recreation programs.

### 14.4.1 Active Play in Ontario Schools

**WHEREAS** childhood obesity and related diseases such as diabetes are growing rapidly in Canada and have been described by many researchers and physicians as an epidemic, one that will have enormous negative long-term health and economic consequences;

**WHEREAS** inactivity is a major cause of this health crisis and researchers have estimated that less than 10% of Canadian elementary and high school age children get the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity of moderate to vigorous intensity;

**WHEREAS** active play and physical activity has been conclusively linked to better physical and psychological health, as well as improved academic performance;

**WHEREAS** current government policies have failed to significantly increase activity, especially among the lower income families that need it most. For instance, research has shown that the Children's Fitness Tax Credit has merely benefited wealthy families who would have enrolled their children in activities regardless;

**WHEREAS** structured physical activity distant from children's schools and neighbourhoods places a large burden on working families who must often come home early from work, drive their children long distances, and/or pay expensive fees.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will ensure at least one hour of playful physical activity per day in the elementary and high school curriculum

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will engage education, health and other experts to develop an effective plan for ensuring a sufficient amount of active play, based on evidence from research.

## 14.5. Health Care: Accountability

**WHEREAS** the Principles of "Publicly funded, Publicly delivered, Publicly accountable." will help to guide where money is spent, in the delivery of health/illness care services and not handed over with little analysis of what we have paid for and whether it was spent wisely.

**WHEREAS** all sources of revenue put forward or tax breaks received, through the delivery of health care services, either directly or indirectly, by all sources such as Community Care Access Centres shall submit all requested and relevant information of contracts and programs provided to the Provincial Auditor for scrutiny.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will undertake a restructuring of health care spending to prioritize funds to areas which have been shown to support an increase in human health for lower costs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase funding to the Ministry of Health Promotion and grant funding to agencies and organizations that provide community-based health programs that show results in improving and maintaining personal health.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that as long as Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) are in existence, the Green Party of Ontario believes that LHIN senior management should be hired through open and public competition.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports Nurse Practitioners and Extended Class Nurses to fall entirely under the Regulations and Scope of Practice that the College of Nurses of Ontario approves, and that Physicians no longer are required to also assume responsibility for the nurses' practice.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports senior executive salary reform in healthcare settings, such as hospitals, with a new provincial formula that includes considerations of similar public sector position salaries, ability to pay and performance.

## 14.6. Health Care: Treatment

**WHEREAS** the function of health care practitioners should be to help us maintain our health, which should be given increased emphasis in our healthcare system.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario health care policy focuses on providing greater access to a full range of proven health care systems, and on providing treatment facilities that are human-scale, community- centred places of healing to increase the emphasis on maintaining health in our healthcare system.

## 14.7. Ban Phthalates in Toys

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario call for a ban of phthalates and Bisphenol A in baby bottles and toys designed for children under the age of 5.

## 14.8. Dying with Dignity

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will bring forth legislation that states that the will of an adult with the capacity to consent must be respected, principally by his right to autonomy. This rule applies even if refusal or cessation of treatment leads to death.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a terminally ill adult patient, who is of sound mind, may request continuous palliative sedation that will lead to death.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that patients will need to have an incurable illness and be in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capacities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that they will also have to be in constant and unbearable physical and/or psychological pain that doctors will view as impossible to relieve through medication.

## 14.9. Mental Health Strategy

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will undertake a comprehensive mental health strategy for Ontario with an aim to increase support for those affected, reduce societal stigma and increase personal health;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the strategy will focus on public education, increasing service delivery and decreasing underlying causes, through the use of strategies known to be effective.

## 14.10. Presumed Consent Organ Donation

**WHEREAS** Ontario currently has a registry, or an “opt-in” system to deal with organ and tissue donations which is governed by the *Trillium Gift of Life Network Act*, meaning potential organ and tissue donors must give prior consent to transplants that will happen after their death;

**WHEREAS** by 2010 at least 24 countries in Europe had some type of “presumed consent” or “opt-out” organ donation legislation;

**WHEREAS** 246 Canadians died in 2013 while waiting for an organ transplant, and there are approximately 1,615 Ontarians presently waiting for transplants;

**WHEREAS** a Canadian Transplant Society survey concluded that 81% of Canadians support organ donation, yet less than 20% have made arrangements to donate when they die;

**WHEREAS** an Ontario Trillium Gift of Life survey concluded that only 34% of Ontarians favour an opt-out system;

**WHEREAS** there are “soft” types of opt-in and opt-out legislation—meaning family members can still override a donor's consent, and “hard” types of opt-in and opt-out legislation—meaning a donor's wishes are binding;

**WHEREAS** Ontario currently has a soft opt-in system giving family members the ability to override donor consent, but in British Columbia, for example, a donor's consent is binding;

**WHEREAS** even in countries with soft opt-out systems such as Spain and Italy, organ donation increased when resources were provided to discuss the benefits of donations with family members; and

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario respects freedom of religion and diversity.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Green Party of Ontario will amend the *Trillium Gift of Life Network Act* and any other legislation as need be, to implement a soft presumed consent—or opt-out—organ and tissue donation system;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this amended law will only apply to Canadian citizens who were ordinarily resident in Ontario for at least one year immediately preceding their death;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that for greater certainty, a resident of Ontario can still register their consent to be an organ and tissue donor either with the Trillium Gift of Life Network, in a proxy directive (i.e., a Continuing Power of Attorney for Personal Care) or in a valid will, in which case their consent will be binding;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this amended law will also apply to citizens of jurisdictions with similar legislation, but will not apply to those citizens who have registered a refusal for transplants;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if a resident of Ontario, to which this presumed consent law applies, dies in another province/state/country, a transplant of their organs and tissue can take place in that jurisdiction, unless that person registers their refusal to consent with the Trillium Gift of Life Network, in a proxy directive (i.e., a Continuing Power of Attorney for Personal Care) or in a valid will;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that additional resources will be provided to hospitals to be able to discuss the benefits of organ donation with family members of an immediate potential donor; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that within 5 to 10 years after implementing a soft opt-out donation system, the Government of Ontario will review the system to look at transitioning to a hard opt-out system that may or may not include a process for families to seek a quick injunction to prevent transplants from a dying family member who did not register or express in writing either their consent or their refusal for transplants.

# Chapter 15. Infrastructure and Planning

## 15.1. Green Planning

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will direct funding to sustainable infrastructure projects including public transit, rail, ecological restoration and other projects which reduce dependence on fossil fuels, reduce greenhouse gases and foster livable communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide operational funding for municipal public transportation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide incentives for good planning by prioritizing infrastructure funding to municipalities that undertake sustainability planning, implementation and reporting, and support an increase in planning capacity.

## 15.2. Population Growth and Employment Opportunities

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will eliminate minimum population growth quotas imposed on municipalities.

## 15.3. Places to Grow

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will protect important parts of the Golden Horseshoe by adding agricultural, rural and natural heritage areas identified by municipalities through implementation of the Places to Grow Plan and the Provincial Greenbelt policy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage Ontario communities to recognize the ecological carrying capacity of the local area.

## 15.4. Public Transit Planning

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will empower municipalities to develop and implement price mechanisms for the use of roads and parking within Ontario downtowns to encourage efficient transit.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will calculate development on the basis of the full implementation of public transportation plans by provincial and municipal planning authorities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will calculate development charges on the basis of public costs including environmental remediation costs generated by new development, such costs as tree-planting, open space replacement, and agricultural easements.

# Chapter 16. Labour

## 16.1. Support for Basic Annual Income Guarantee

**WHEREAS** A form of Basic Annual Income Guarantee was established in 1967 with income guarantees for seniors. Shortly afterwards, in 1971, the idea of a wider basic or guaranteed annual income was the key recommendation in a Senate report on poverty (the “Croll report”). Also in the 1970s, both Canada and the United States ran extensive pilot programs, including a unique site in Dauphin, Manitoba. A Senate Committee in 2009, noting growing inequality and persistent poverty in Canada, said it was time to put a guaranteed income back on the public agenda.

**WHEREAS** the 2011 National Household Survey confirmed that 14.9% of the population live in low income circumstances, and income insecurity and inequality continue to increase as a result of precarious or low paying Employment;

**WHEREAS** the current system of social services with a complex criteria for qualifying and ongoing monitoring, the system to administer these social services uses an incredible amount of time and resources, and negatively impacts the dignity of recipients;

**WHEREAS** a Basic Annual Income Guarantee would provide a sufficient income for those who choose to do essential but low paying or unpaid work (eg. caregiving);

**WHEREAS** a Basic Annual Income Guarantee would reduce income insufficiency, insecurity, and inequality and ensure everyone an income sufficient to meet their basic needs and live in dignity regardless of work status.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the development, implementation, and monitoring of a Basic Annual Income Guarantee at the provincial and Federal level.

## 16.2. Mandatory Mediation

**WHEREAS** the effect of long-lasting strikes or lockouts negatively impact the surrounding community as well as both the affected workers and employers.

**WHEREAS** the goal of contract negotiations is to find a mutually agreeable contract that all parties can accept.

**WHEREAS** it is in the public interest to reach a contract agreement as quickly and efficiently as possible.

**WHEREAS** current Ontario labour laws allow for mediation only if a party to negotiations requests it. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the following policy regarding mandatory mediation of strike or lockout be adopted.

After 60 days, or sooner under extraordinary circumstances, of a lockout or strike the Government of Ontario shall appoint a third party mediator, or conciliation officer, to ease contract negotiations, and help reach a mutually agreeable contract.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this applies to both public and private sector labour disputes.

## 16.3. Parents Returning to School

**BE IT RESOLVED** that parents returning to school may collect social assistance to cover the costs of food, shelter and childcare for their dependent children while they are in school.

## 16.4. Vacation Entitlement Section

**WHEREAS**, all EU nations and even non-EU nations such as Australia and Brazil.

**WHEREAS** EU nations such as Holland, Denmark, Ireland and Austria have much lower rates of unemployment than Canada while offering much higher minimum annual vacation leaves of 4 - 6 weeks.

**WHEREAS** Wal-Mart workers in Germany receive 6 weeks paid vacation. This is the least we can do for Ontario workers in this area.

**WHEREAS** a sampling of Annual leave around the world:

Minimum annual leave - Country

- 30 days - Finland
- 25 days - Sweden
- 24 days - Germany
- 22 days - Brazil
- 20 days - Australia
- 20 days - Ireland
- 10 days - Canada

**WHEREAS** post-secondary experience should count at least as much as work experience in a knowledge based and modern society/economy.

**WHEREAS** not enough recognition is currently given for the value of post-secondary education.

**WHEREAS** increased vacation entitlement will also support local tourism (eco-tourism), arts and culture industries, and open up summer employment opportunities for students and young people who currently suffer the highest levels of unemployment.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will raise the minimum annual paid vacation entitlement for all workers to 4 weeks (20 days).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that after 10 years of work experience, all workers will receive 5 weeks (25 days) minimum where:

- Post-secondary years of education are to count toward the 10 years of work experience.
- All work experience will count toward the 10 year qualification and will not be limited to work experience with a single employer.

## 16.5. Unpaid internships

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports best practices related to unpaid internships with oversight and enforcement by the Ministry of Labour.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that unpaid internships must not unfairly exploit interns and therefore should be vetted according to a published set of guidelines such that they provide:

- clear benefits in terms of vocational training to the intern;
- provide minimal benefit to the organization offering the internship;
- span a limited duration in days;
- comprise limited number of non-full time hours not more than 12 hours per week in the case of longer term internships;
- preferably be linked to a program of study, vocational training, or international student training exchange;
- be registered with the Ministry of Labour;
- and shall not be used as a prerequisite to eventual employment or to replace employees.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports a system of fast track approval by the Ministry of Labour for registered unpaid internships that fulfill the above criteria.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that unpaid internships which follow the above guidelines in the broader public sector should fall within the mandate of the Ombudsman for Ontario.

## 16.6. Labour Regulations for Teleworking

**WHEREAS** teleworking is defined as the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) to enable a worker to perform their job from a home office or other location that separate from the business premises of an employer or client;

**WHEREAS** teleworking is a practice that is only partially described by the “Homeworkers” designation under the Employment Standards Act, 2000;

**WHEREAS** the existing category of “Homeworkers” explicitly excludes the many independent contractors now active in the province of Ontario who routinely make use of ICT;

**WHEREAS** the nature of teleworking continues to evolve as ICT continue to change;

**WHEREAS** teleworking reduces both the economic and environmental costs associated with commuting to work;

**WHEREAS** teleworking helps to mitigate risks and maintain business operations in the event of extreme weather emergencies and other disasters that impair commuting to work;

**WHEREAS** teleworking can enable people living in rural and remote areas greater access to more different forms of employment than would otherwise be possible;

**WHEREAS** the Transportation policies of the Green Party of Ontario already support incentives for teleworking;

**WHEREAS** teleworking can provide particular benefits to senior citizens;

**WHEREAS** teleworking can provide particular benefits to people living with disabilities;

**WHEREAS** teleworking can provide enhanced productivity when working arrangements and technology implementation are favourable;

**WHEREAS** teleworking can provide increase both employee satisfaction and employee retention when implemented in a fair manner with cooperation from all parties involved;

**WHEREAS** the specific context for teleworking in the urban, rural, and remote regions of Ontario is complex and is affected by the differing social, economic, and infrastructure concerns of each community in our province, and

**WHEREAS** teleworking presents many opportunities for modernization & improvement of working conditions but also presents new challenges related to safe and healthy working conditions and fair business practices

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports provincial funding of programs to study best practices for teleworking in Ontario communities, i.e., working remotely from a home office on behalf of an employer or client at least part of the time.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Green Party of Ontario will pursue partnerships and sharing of information with any private sector, not-for-profit, and community-based organizations that seek to advance best practices for teleworking in the province of Ontario.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Green Party of Ontario promotes the enhancement of teleworking supports to senior citizens and to people living with disabilities in order to promote increased workforce participation while protecting vulnerable people and communities from exploitation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Green Party of Ontario supports dedicated, stable, long-term funding for teleworking partnerships that specifically address the needs of participating indigenous communities of Ontario.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Green Party of Ontario supports ongoing reviews and public consultations initiated by the Ministry of Labour that would examine laws and regulations that address teleworking conditions including the following concerns:

1. Working arrangements for employees and independent contractors.
2. Hours of work, including
  - a. Limits and guidelines for daily, weekly, and monthly hours worked;
  - b. Duty of employers to authorize, monitor, and verify hours worked, and
  - c. Mutual responsibility of workers and employers to log and record hours worked and to resolve disputes within timeframes set out by regulation.
3. Fair payment for work of equal value, including
  - a. Shift premiums, if any, for verifiable overtime worked while teleworking.
4. Teleworking conditions, including
  - a. Key provisions required in a teleworking agreement entered into by a worker and an employer, and
  - b. Definition of minimum acceptable working conditions.
5. Compensation standards for teleworkers, including
  - a. Recourse for non-payment of wages and shift premiums due to a worker that specifically contemplate work performed by teleworking.
6. Health effects, including
  - a. Ergonomic concerns such as repetitive strain injuries, and other musculo-skeletal problems;
  - b. Obesity & cardiovascular fitness, and
  - c. Mental health effects of social isolation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports an ongoing process of review by the Privacy Commissioner of Ontario in order to identify areas of concern and proposed policy changes related to privacy and workplace surveillance as these issues apply to workers engaged in any form of teleworking.

# Chapter 17. Municipal Affairs and Housing

## 17.1. Overhaul the Ontario Municipal Board

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will significantly overhaul or abolish the Ontario Municipal Board, with public consultation.

## 17.2. Energy and Water Efficiency

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will require that all new buildings built in Ontario achieve an established level of energy and water efficiency in order to reduce waste and maximize long-term cost savings for residents.  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will produce incentives for industrial ecology design and distributed generation with district energy systems in commercial, housing and mixed-use developments.

## 17.3. Municipal Governance

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario believes that municipalities are responsible and accountable governments. Accountability means mutual respect between municipal government, the province, and other public agencies.

**WHEREAS** as the most local order of government, the Green Party of Ontario believes municipalities are the primary vehicle to fulfill our key value of decentralization.

**WHEREAS** the people most affected by a problem must have the authority to solve it.

**WHEREAS** distant administrations cannot be responsive.

**WHEREAS** individuals, cities and municipalities need more freedom to shape their destinies.

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario envisions a healthier relationship between the Province and municipalities with more clearly drawn lines of jurisdiction and funding resources in line with those responsibilities.

**WHEREAS** as such, we will stop micro-managing municipal governments.

**WHEREAS** Municipalities will perform responsibly.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will clearly articulate where it believes there is a compelling provincial interest and will define that interest before regulating municipalities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that provincial legislation shall be drafted with the expectation of responsible municipal government behaviour and not as a remedial tool.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that resources for municipal governments shall be sustainable and commensurate with the level of responsibility.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the province shall commit to increasing the understanding and awareness of municipal government within all ministries.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide the following recommendations:

- That the Municipal Act and accompanying Regulations be amended by deleting all requirements for "notice" and replaced with a general provision allowing municipal councils to determine by by-law under what circumstances notice is required and the form, manner and timing of the notice. Limitations on incorporating should be repealed and replaced with a broad power permitting municipalities to incorporate corporations under either the Business Corporations Act or under Part III of the Corporations Act for any municipal purpose.
- That the restriction on the receiving and holding of shares of a corporation be removed and that Natural Person Powers be enhanced to include the use of those powers for matters related to effective management and administration of the municipality and local boards, and by the reduction or elimination of the restrictions and limitations currently in the Act.
- That all provincial legislation affecting municipal government shall define the provincial interest in the legislation.
- Legislation should be enacted recognizing that municipalities are governments capable of administering their own affairs. - and should be allowed to govern based on broad authority within their areas of jurisdiction.

- That the Municipal Act be amended to permit municipalities to appoint an independent Integrity Commissioner. The legislation should include broadly worded authority permitting a municipal council to appoint an Integrity Commissioner on the terms and conditions it deems appropriate. The only detail in the authorizing legislation may be to include adequate powers to undertake a full and complete investigation.
- That municipal councils be authorized to enact codes of conduct.
- That the principle of joint and several liability be abandoned and that section 1 of the Negligence Act be repealed to protect municipalities from frivolous lawsuits.

## 17.4. Municipal Taxes and Urban Sprawl

**WHEREAS** Land has value in relation to usefulness and nearby land in use, and gains value mainly as a result of the effort of the surrounding community, whether the landholder builds or not.

**WHEREAS** A vacant piece of land at the core of a city is worth more than an equivalent-sized parcel of the northern forest because of the proximity of goods and services.

**WHEREAS** Since the community imbues the land with value, the community should recover that unearned profit through taxes.

**WHEREAS** Assessed value must ignore the market value of the structures on the land.

**WHEREAS** The quality of buildings and structures on a parcel of land owe nothing to the community.

**WHEREAS** The community does have an interest in the quality and maintenance of structures, but is not directly responsible for improvements.

**WHEREAS** Furthermore, the biggest incentive to improve the quality of buildings and structures comes from the ability to profit from that effort.

**WHEREAS** Removing taxes on structures encourages the beneficial economic activity of building improvement and rewards individuals for their efforts.

**WHEREAS** Assessed tax must, at a minimum, recover costs of site services including ongoing maintenance where Site Value Tax returns are too low.

**WHEREAS** There are fixed costs associated with delivery of services to any given plot of land that must be recovered by the community and thus must be the lower bound on annual taxes.

**WHEREAS** Landholders must pay for services such as sewage and water costs that include ongoing maintenance and improvements.

**WHEREAS** Such costs are cheaper when shared, so the small costs to a building in the city core will easily be exceeded by the tax relative to site value.

**WHEREAS** However, in rare cases, the tax recovered, when based on site value alone, may not be enough to cover the cost to service outlying properties.

**WHEREAS** Thus the tax rate must have a lower bound fixed by the cost of those services, regardless of the site value. Note that land without service will pay only site value tax.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement Site Value Tax, improving assessment procedures to reflect the value of the land, taking into account long -term restrictions, allowed uses, and other aspects such as ecological, cultural and zoning mandates;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that assessed value shall derive from the unencumbered value of the site in relation to location;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the assessed value shall ignore the market value of the structures on the land;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the assessed tax shall, at a minimum, recover costs of site services, including ongoing maintenance where Site Value Tax returns are too low.

## 17.5. Selective Intensification

**WHEREAS** municipalities could, through the manipulation of the two tier property tax system (land taxed at a separate rate than buildings), increase the tax on sites in low density urban areas in order to encourage their gradual intensification to densities which facilitate the healthy functioning of a city.

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario recognizes that problems exist with urban areas that are not dense enough as well as too dense. Therefore, the majority of new development should not occur in the already dense urban centers (where densities are such that transit, energy and food procurement and waste disposal are reaching points where they are no longer manageable), but in the outlying suburban areas.

**WHEREAS** cities should not be areas where every square foot of land has a building on it.

**WHEREAS** zoning laws and conservation regulations will ensure that historic buildings and neighborhoods, parkland, community gardens, natural areas and farmland.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will act as responsible keepers of the public trust, retaining public lands in public hands, only considering selling land to non-profit community groups.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports rural property and urban community trusts to be used by responsible stewards.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will establish a formula to determine the municipal infrastructure footprint of new developments.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that development charges will be levied on new developments by municipalities to pay for the infrastructure needed to sustain that development.

## 17.6. Zoning

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will allow and encourage the zoning of current single family homes into multiple family units.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage infilling and intensification of our cities; discourage urban sprawl with Greenbelts around all urban centres in Ontario.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage the establishment of home based business, with the only zoning requirement being the approval of your immediate neighbours.

## 17.7. Housing

### 17.7.1. Ontario Building Code

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will recommend to amend the Ontario Building Code to require all new homes to be built to a minimum of R2000 standards, and all commercial, industrial and institutional buildings, including apartment buildings, to be built to a minimum of LEED certified rating;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the provincial portion of HST will be waived on retrofitting buildings if they meet or exceed approved standards, to be phased back in over 5 years;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that housing include the provision of larger diameter conduits (and the inclusion of sufficient electrical panel capacity) in all new single family and multi-residential construction with parking spaces; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is encouraged to resolve the roof loading issue promptly to support the introduction of solar energy in new and existing construction.

### 17.7.2. Building with the inclusion of alternative fuel technology

**WHEREAS** some countries (i.e., Italy and Germany), currently have mandated building material requiring alternative energy (i.e., solar panels on south facing walls, for new commercial buildings), this instead would extend to all new buildings and can be on roof, or other technology (i.e., geothermal, biomass, etc.);

**BE IT RESOLVED** that building construction have incorporated alternative energy materials in the construction that involved at least 25% of the outside building material and this energy to be fed into the grid via reversed metering or for personal use if desired.

### 17.7.3. Privately owned homes

**WHEREAS** a community land trust is a non profit corporation which owns land.

**WHEREAS** it leases the land to individuals according to the use value of that land. Our needs for land are many and often in conflict.

**WHEREAS** land can provide all the things we need if we plan carefully and secure local control over land use decisions. The central principle motivating a land trust is that buildings, and all things done in or on the land should be owned by individuals, but the land itself should be owned by the community as a whole.

**WHEREAS** a land trusts primary function is to buy or accept gifts of land and lease it back to members under a 99-year lease that is automatically renewable and inheritable.

**WHEREAS** part of the process is determining, in conjunction with land use planners, local government and the community at large, the most appropriate use for a given parcel of land.

**WHEREAS** the business of the land trust is conducted by a board of governors elected by the membership. Members are encouraged to join or form committees to address particular issues of land use.

**WHEREAS** the Community Land Trust allows people to buy a house for what it is worth without having to buy the artificially inflated land that it sits on. The lease restricts the resale price of the home to the value of the building and other improvements in or on the land, that is the cost of rebuilding the same house and grounds again at the time of the sale.

**WHEREAS** this makes it affordable for every subsequent buyer, not just the first.

**WHEREAS** no one buying the house will have to pay for the inflated price of the land. The return to the seller is therefore equal to the increase in the price of building materials and labour in the area.

**WHEREAS** the same holds true for commercial land and farm land. A leaseholder owns, buys and sells the result of real work, not the result of speculation.

**WHEREAS** at its core the community land trust is a management group. It can work flexibly with individuals or organizations to accomplish the objectives of the community for agricultural, commercial, industrial, open spaces, or other land uses. community land trusts are not abstract theories but living working organizations. There are dozens of land trusts in existence in North America today.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encouraging homeownership through the following policies:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will enter into negotiations with the Federal government to regulate the funds raised from RRSPs to be used solely for the purpose of providing mortgages for Canadians.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the creation of community land trusts.

#### 17.7.4. Co-op housing

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports co-operative housing as a means of providing good housing that people can afford.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario is committed to the following principles adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance (the body representing co-ops worldwide, in September 1995) such that it fits our vision of sustainable communities which includes:

- Open and Voluntary Membership,
- Democratic Control by Members,
- Members' Economic Participation,
- Commitment to Service,
- Autonomy and Independence,
- Education, Training and Information,
- Co-operation among Co-operatives,
- Concern for Community and Future Generations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide government loan guarantees and small grants as seed money needed to assist the development of housing co-ops.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will reverse the decision of the previous Ontario government that downloaded Housing Co-ops to municipalities.

#### 17.7.5. Socially-assisted housing

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario is committed to policies that facilitate decent, permanent shelter for those in need.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will make changes to the zoning regulations of our province that will encourage a mix of housing alternatives in every community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that new communities (and renovated older communities) will be required to have as a percentage of total houses built: More options for temporary housing such as Group homes, temporary shelters, and rent subsidized, public housing.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that every neighbourhood should have councils to consider building permits which will ensure that every development will have a range of price variations.

## 17.7.6 Available Housing for All

**WHEREAS** The Green Party of Ontario believes that decent housing is a universal right and utilitarian necessity.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario would take the following steps to end involuntary homelessness in Ontario:

- Pressure the Federal Government to live up to international agreements, which Canada signed decades ago, which define shelter as a basic human right. We will insist that the Federal Government provide funding for a national housing program.
- Initiate a province wide study to determine all suitable surplus property held by the Province and Municipalities, with the intention of leasing (at slightly lower than market rates) to non-profit housing providers, community groups or co-operatives, who can demonstrate the ability to renovate existing buildings, or build new affordable housing units, independent of any further Provincial Government funding. Of course, communities require land for uses other than residential, and these needs shall be provided for, where public land is available, and suitable.
- Provide government loan guarantees and small grants to non-profit groups as seed money needed to assist the development of Housing Co-ops, co-housing and shared accommodation facilities.
- Provide adequate funding to municipalities to build temporary shelter facilities.
- Ensure that all forms of residential buildings are taxed at an equal rate; ensuring that any savings to multi-tenant facilities would be passed on to tenants.

## 17.8. Enabling Public Participation in the Planning Approvals Process

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports the development of legislation to discourage developers from using cost applications and similar tactics to frustrate public participation in the planning approval process.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for a means for the public to access financial and other resources in order to exercise their participatory rights in planning approvals and other contexts that have a significant bearing on the environment.

# Chapter 18. Natural Resources

## 18.1. Ecological tax credit - land use

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will develop ecological credits for landowners who preserve and/or expand ecological infrastructure that promotes biodiversity.

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario recognizes mining and its associated spin-off industries as major contributors to the provincial economy, and especially to the well-being of those communities where these activities take place.

**WHEREAS** unfortunately, in providing these benefits, both the industry and government have often shown less than admirable regard for other values, particularly in relation to environmental issues, recognition of First Nations' concerns, workers' health and safety, and the development of subsidiary processing industries in or near communities where mineral values originate, meaning that many of the industry's value-added benefits are realized elsewhere, often outside Canada.

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario does recognize, however, that these are costs - and only some of the costs - that come with the economic and social benefits we enjoy; our intention is to work towards reducing these impacts while trying to maintain a good measure of the benefits,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that in order to work towards reducing the negative impacts of mining while trying to maintain a good measure of the benefits of mining, the Green Party of Ontario will

- prohibit prospecting and mine development in any parts of provincial parks that are zoned with wilderness, natural environment,
- nature reserve, and historic classifications, or in areas of natural and scientific interest, conservation reserves, the Great Lakes heritage
- coastline, or other areas of particular and documented ecological significance;
- call for the complete exhaustion and site rehabilitation of aggregate pits and quarries now under exploitation before allowing new developments to occur in close proximity to those operations, so that the aggregate industry isn't leaving landscapes of berms and partially dug holes all throughout areas containing those resources;
- require independent baseline flora and fauna inventories, and an outline of planned habitat protection measures prior to mine or pit development;
- designate all proposed new mines and related activities under the Environmental Assessment Act, with individual rather than class assessments being required for each proposal, and making sure those Assessments are partnered with First Nations' interests wherever treaty rights are involved;
- ensure that all process waste water, mine drainage water, and tailings leachates are treated to drinking water standards before being discharged from any exploration, mining, milling, smelting, or refining activity, and from any tailings areas, or to standards acceptable as input before being released into a municipal sewage system;
- fund, in partnership with the industry, the safeguarding and rehabilitation of abandoned mine sites and tailings areas, and of areas contaminated by the industry's emissions, including emissions from the petroleum industry;
- ensure that there is a closure plan in place prior to the commencement of any development work, and that this plan is funded, right from its beginning, with sufficient capital resources to perform all remedial work that will be required if the mine were to close at whatever stage it has reached, plus as much as fifty years of post-closure monitoring, with all such money being held by the province, and the fund for every mine's closure requirements being structured so that it grows, as needed, as mine development progresses;
- require the establishment of a similarly funded closure plan for any existing mining and quarrying operations that do not yet meet the above-stated criteria;
- prohibit the use of any depleted mine, quarry or pit as a site for the deposition of garbage and wastes from any source;
- impose a resource export tax on mineral wealth that is taken out of the province for any processing performed prior to sale of the product for use in manufacturing;
- put "cradle to grave" deposits on all potentially recoverable metal and minerals-sourced products sold in the province, including glass, to encourage reuse and recycling; and
- tax sales of products that contain metal which currently cannot be economically recovered at rates that will, in some cases, force the market to look for other components or, with other products, provide recyclers with sufficient subsidies to make recovering the metal feasible.

## 18.2. Ending Preferential Treatment of Aggregate Industry

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will work towards a fair, impartial review of aggregate policy and operations that prioritizes the health, safety and quality of life for rural Ontarians and the environment.

# Chapter 19. Research and Innovation

## 19.1. Public Funding of Research at Public Institutions

**WHEREAS** an increase in the amount of research and development (R&D) activities in Canada by public institutions could be for the common good,

**WHEREAS** foreign ownership and investment curtails Canada's capacity to develop home-grown R&D,

**WHEREAS** University funding of R&D is increasingly coming from corporations rather than from Governments or other public institutions,

**WHEREAS** the University that holds the patent will often provide exclusive rights of the patent to the corporation(s) that initially provided the funding,

**WHEREAS** preventing the use of a particular technology by other researchers, individuals, or organizations will guarantee direct profits for the corporation holding the patent.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate that all research at public institutions such as universities, colleges and hospitals be supported exclusively by public funds.

## 19.2. Incentive Program for the Development and Demonstration of Technological Innovation

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for an incentive program for public or private organizations to develop and demonstrate technologies intended to improve energy efficiency, conservation or renewable generation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for an incentive program for financial institutions to develop financial products and tools for the green energy sector.

# Chapter 20. Tourism

## 20.1. Limiting Urban Sprawl to Create Tourism

**WHEREAS**, the Green Party of Ontario believes in Ecological Wisdom and Global Responsibility,

**WHEREAS** an increase in community pride and quality of life will make tourists want to visit our home towns.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will increase tourism dollars and promote cultural heritage resource preservation through the redirection of tax dollars used to build and maintain new suburbs toward revitalization of existing heritage infrastructure.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will develop, in part, a new Ontario Tourism Strategy based on the belief that urban sprawl does not equal community pride.

## 20.2. Expanding Green Tourism in our Cities

**WHEREAS**, the Green Party of Ontario believes in Ecological Wisdom and Global Responsibility,

**WHEREAS** the Ontario government recognizes that "Tourism interests need to be balanced with environmental principles" (Ontario Tourism Strategy, p.4)

**WHEREAS** however, as our urban areas become less sustainable through pollution, waste, and other quality of life depreciation, Ontario needs a more focused strategy of promoting urban green tourism and recreation.

**WHEREAS** of Ontario's total population of over 12 million people, about 80% live in urban centres.

**WHEREAS** Ontario's three largest census metropolitan areas alone include over 6 million people (Toronto: over 4.5 million; Ottawa: over 1 million; Hamilton: over 600,00).

**WHEREAS** urban growth is

a reality, especially as new immigrants, the main source of population growth, overwhelmingly settle in urban areas.

**WHEREAS** this trend does not seem to be reversing.

**WHEREAS** an intentional greening of Ontario's cities can be enhanced through an emphasis on urban ecotourism.

**WHEREAS** urban ecotourism is a relatively new concept, which has taken root in Toronto, and can be expanded in the GTA as in all Ontario municipalities. Urban ecotourism will improve the quality of life in our cities, making them more sustainable and healthy environments for all residents and visitors, and will benefit local economies.

**WHEREAS** a general focus on green tourism will promote "Green Collar" jobs in urban, rural, and wilderness environments.

**WHEREAS** as many new and native Ontarians may never travel to even one of the province's many ecotourism adventure sites. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will bring ecotourism to our own urban communities;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the creation of a website specifically linking all ecotourism activities in the province, and will especially focus on urban ecotourism enterprises;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that introducing Green Tourist Guides allowing locals and visitors to find and support businesses and venues which promote Green Tourism goals;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that treating new Green Collar jobs in the province's tourism and recreation industries. Supporting local small businesses which promote Green Tourism through tax and other incentives in all Ontario communities.

# Chapter 21. Transportation

## 21.1. General Policy

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario acknowledges the importance of alternatives to commuting such as improved urban design and teleworking; and

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario supports alternative forms of transportation with reduced environmental impact, including active transportation and efficient mass transit; Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario is dedicated to providing cleaner, more energy efficient and safer forms of transportation that are accessible to everyone.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will promote the design of communities and encourage practices that will reduce the need for long commutes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports investment in public transit infrastructure and active transportation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage a reduction in unnecessary road traffic.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage the use of motor vehicles that do less environmental harm.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will link fees, incentives, and regulations pertaining to motor vehicles to the full life cycle costs including pollution, road construction and maintenance, accidents, etc.

## 21.2. Active Transportation and Public Transportation

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario seeks to promote better health and a cleaner environment through active transportation; and

**WHEREAS** the Green Party of Ontario advocates on behalf of improved public transportation infrastructure in the interest of ecological sustainability, total cost effectiveness, enhanced productivity, and public safety

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario shall seek to have municipalities and the Ontario Municipal Board encourage the location of places of work, living and recreation closer together.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will promote safer walking, safer cycling, and accessibility for persons with disabilities through province-wide improvements to signals, signage, road markings, traffic calming, introduction of bicycle lanes and paths, and improved sidewalks.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will devote at least 1% of the Ministry of Transportation budget to a fund for municipalities to use to support pedestrian infrastructure.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will devote at least 1% of the Ministry of Transportation budget to a fund for municipalities to use to support cycling infrastructure.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide tax incentives to employers and employees for living-where-you-work, active transportation, and the regular use of public transportation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will require municipalities to plan for sufficient density around any rapid transit stations to be developed with provincial funding so that the new infrastructure will be economically sustainable.

## 21.3. Promotion of Teleworking over Commuting

**WHEREAS** commuting to and from work unnecessarily wastes the time of commuters, thereby undermining productivity; and

**WHEREAS** commuting causes significant environmental damage, including air pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS** Ontario's winter climate frequently leads to substantial delays in commuting to work; and

**WHEREAS** the Pembina Institute has identified Transportation as the largest contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Ontario, with personal vehicles the fastest growing contributor. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage teleworking, that is working remotely from a home or local office, with application to Provincial government employees;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that employees of companies doing business with the Government of Ontario; and Private sector employees under provincial jurisdiction.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will endeavour to implement tax incentives for employers and employees participating in teleworking programs.

## 21.4. Support for Northern, Remote, and Rural Communities

**WHEREAS** many Ontarians in northern, remote, and rural communities do not have access to public transit; and

**WHEREAS** private automobiles often constitute an important mode of transportation for Ontarians in northern and rural communities, for the elderly, and for the disabled; and

**WHEREAS** the use of an automobile is often linked to one's employment. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will seek to provide income tax credits to residents of northern and remote areas in recognition of the lack of access to public transportation in these areas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide financial support specifically directed at developing active transportation and public transportation infrastructure in northern Ontario communities.

## 21.5. Rail Infrastructure

**WHEREAS** the Pembina Institute has identified transportation as the largest contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Ontario, with personal vehicles the fastest growing contributor; and

**WHEREAS** a key component of modernized transportation infrastructure involves rail infrastructure for public transit and for the transport of goods

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will seek to develop efficient, electric powered rail systems for long distance haulage of goods and for inter-community personal travel.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will convert Metrolinx trains (GO Transit and Toronto's Air Rail Link) to electric power at the earliest opportunity.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will provide funding for rail systems through leasing or sale of some or all of the rights to the real estate situated over rail lines, where appropriate.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage public access to currently unused rail right of ways that can safely be converted to new uses such as public transportation.

## 21.6. Vehicles Belonging to Government Agencies

**WHEREAS** the Government of Ontario should use its purchasing power to promote the triple bottom line of ecological, environmental, and social sustainability. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will seek to have electric and other low-emissions vehicles used wherever possible in the fleet of all agencies of the Government of Ontario;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will work to have the Government of Ontario transition its fleet to electric and other low-emissions vehicles.

## 21.7. Automobiles

**WHEREAS** the Pembina Institute has identified transportation as the largest contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Ontario, with personal vehicles the fastest growing contributor; and

**WHEREAS** private automobiles often constitute an important mode of transportation for Ontarians in northern and rural communities, for the elderly, and for the disabled; and  
**WHEREAS** the use of an automobile is often linked to one's employment

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will seek to introduce pay-as-you-drive car insurance to encourage those who must sometimes use a car to use public transportation more often;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will have standards bodies and municipalities support the use of plug-in electric vehicles through building codes and the issuance of building permits;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage that electric vehicles are powered by renewable energy;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement licensing fees that are lower for vehicles that pollute less, for example, based on a designations such as the Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) system;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will promote regular safety checks on all vehicles;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will enhance enforcement of automobile emission regulations through the Drive Clean program;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will enact stricter standards for emissions from motor vehicles;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will expand the use of high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on all 400 series highways and similar multi-lane highways, where appropriate;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will implement congestion charges in urban areas and toll charges on express highways where appropriate, with greater charges applying to those classes of vehicles that pollute more;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will all net proceeds derived from such charges will be directed to public transit in those areas;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage and expand the use of car-sharing programs, to reduce automobile ownership and resulting incentives to drive;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will remove carpooling restrictions based on vehicle ownership and/or trip purpose;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will encourage the development and use of carpool matching services.

## 21.8. Public Trails

**BE IT RESOLVED** that public trails should be closed to all motorized recreational vehicles.  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that non-motorized recreational equipment should be tax-free, while motorized recreational vehicles, should be discouraged through taxation and banned from parks and protected areas.

## 21.9. Dedicated Revenue Streams for Public Transit

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario will advocate for dedicated revenue streams that will provide adequate money to fund public transit, expanded GO service, and Ontario Northland.

## 21.10. Safety and Accessibility of Public Transit

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports stable, ongoing provincial government funding for infrastructure, equipment, and public education measures used to improve the safety, security and accessibility of our public transit systems.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Green Party of Ontario supports a periodic review of the safety, security and accessibility of public transit systems that receive funding from the Province of Ontario.