

- Thank you Nancy for that kind introduction.
- Je suis excité d'être ici avec vous aujourd'hui.
- Merci de soutenir le parti vert de l'ontario
- Indigenous land acknowledgement: Traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Métis, and the Mississaugas of the Scugog, Hiawatga, and Alderville First Nation for the 2019 Green Party of Ontario convention.
- It is so good to be in Scarborough for our largest convention ever, even more evidence of the Green wave that is sweeping across the country.
- From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for your passion and commitment to green movement in this province.
- Last year, together, we proved the critics, pundits and skeptics wrong by electing Ontario's first Green MPP.
- Proving that the three status-quo parties don't own your vote and
- Proving that there is a hunger for a new voice and a new way of doing politics in Ontario.

- Thanks to your hard work and our amazing team, Our party is going through tremendous growth and the proof is in the numbers.
- Last year, for the first time we raised over \$1 million.
- And with your support we are on pace to reach that milestone in a non-election year in 2019.
- Our number of donors rose to 8,000 individuals, showing that you can build a party with people powered fundraising.
- For the first time ever, we have over 5,000 members.
- We are in the mainstream media everyday.
- I am so proud to be one of the 19 elected Greens across this country.
- I represent Guelph, but I also represent the hundreds of thousands of people who vote Green across the province.
- Since our last convention, we've seen the New Brunswick Greens triple their caucus from one to three MLAs.
- We've seen the BC Greens continue to hold the balance of power in a minority BC government that

recently released the most ambitious climate plan in the country.

- We've seen PEI elect the first ever Green official opposition in Canadian history.
- And we've seen the Green Party of Canada triple their caucus by electing Paul Manly in BC and Jenica Atwin, the first federally elected Green in Atlantic Canada.
- Like you, I'm disappointed we didn't send 10 Greens to Ottawa a few weeks ago.
- But let's look at it this way: 1.1 million people voted Green. If we had proportional representation 22 Greens would be in Ottawa today.
- And even in this broken, winner-take-all system, that fosters the kind of negative, mud slinging that we saw during the federal election,
- the Green Party of Canada doubled its vote share.
- Right here in Ontario, while we didn't elect a Green MP, we had strong showings in a number of ridings.
- In Kitchener Centre, Mike Morrice got 26% of the vote, a 23% increase over last time

- In Parry Sound Muskoka, we increased the vote share by 8%.
- In Guelph Steve Dyck had a strong second place with 25% of the vote, while in Barrie and Wellington-Halton Hills Greens got 13% of the vote.
- These are gains that we can build on in 2022 because it's safe to say that voting Green has entered the mainstream.
- With one million people marching in the streets for climate action in September, there is no turning back.
- People want action on the climate crisis. And People are excited to vote Green.
- They do it out of pride, passion and purpose.
- You never hear about someone begrudgingly voting Green as is so common with the three status quo parties.
- It's been an intense year at Queen's Park.
- At last year's convention in Barrie, I remember rushing back to Toronto because the Premier was holding midnight sessions to invoke the Notwithstanding Clause to interfere in Toronto's elections.

- I wish I could say that things had settled down after that debacle...
- that the Premier hadn't used his first year in office to tear Ontario apart instead of build Ontario up.
- But I had to spend much of my first year in office fighting to stop the Premier from taking us backward rather than working to move us forward.
- The one question people asked after I was elected was: What can one Green do.
- I don't blame people for doubting the difference that one out of 124 MPPs can make.
- I must admit that The math isn't on my side.
- But against those odds, I think we've proven our detractors wrong.
- Thanks to a dedicated, hard working team, we've punched above our weight, proving that Greens belong at Queen's Park.
- We've done things that don't get accomplished very often.
- In February, I tabled my first Private Member's Bill, the Paris Galt Moraine Conservation Act, which if passed, would protect the drinking water supply of

200,000 people in the Guelph region, putting public interest over private profits.

- In effect, it would expand Greenbelt protection much like the Oak Ridges Moraine.
- Very rarely do substantive opposition bills pass second reading with all-party support, but ours did.
- And that's because we consulted and collaborated.
- It's because we worked across party lines -- deliberately modelling the bill after good environmental laws advanced by the Conservatives, Liberals and NDP.
- We consulted directly with the Mississauges of the Credit First Nation incorporating their suggestions.
- And if it passes the final hurdle, it will become the first Green law in Ontario's history.
- We need these victories because we know the Ford government is doing so much to dismantle every trace of climate and environmental action in the province.
- Over 700 clean energy projects turfed.
- A \$30 million lawsuit to fight the federal government over pollution pricing.

- The cancellation of energy efficiency programs, home retrofit incentives, and EV rebates.
- Irrational cuts to tree planting and flood prevention programs just as the single greatest crisis we have ever faced - the climate emergency - grows worse.
- I'll admit it has been tough watching the government vote to repeal so many environmental laws, and then applaud and shake hands after doing so.
- But I think things could be so much worse if we were not at Queen's Park sounding the alarm.
- When the Premier threatened (for the 3rd or 4th time) to open up the Greenbelt and erase clean drinking water protections in Bill 66, I asked the first question to sound the alarm.
- Thankfully, the public rose up. Municipal Councils passed resolutions.
- And the government backed down. But we know that opening up the Greenbelt remains on the Premier's to-do list.
- And we know that this government sees nearly every environmental law that protects our air, water and land as a useless piece of red tape.

- That's also why I've been trying to unite the opposition parties to stand up against these attacks on the places we love.
- Because I know that we share environmental values with other parties.
- So when the government put forward a bill that gutted the Endangered Species Act in the name of building housing, I organized a news conference with the NDP and the Liberals to condemn Bill 108.
- Because Greens know we do not need to pave over the homes of wolves, turtles and monarch butterflies in order to build our homes.
- And because Greens believe in working with other parties whenever we can to amplify our voices, put forward good ideas and call out bad ideas.
- I even convinced a developer to join us to dispel the myth that all developers want to pave over the Greenbelt.
- Everyday at Queen's Park, I'm focused on solutions.
- Amidst all the toxic partisanship in the legislature, I firmly believe that I can be more effective by trying to build Ontario up than tear other party's down.

- So when the Premier's corruption scandal erupted in the summer with the unethical appointment of friends of the PC party and his Chief of Staff, I didn't spend my time complaining.
- I got to work on a series of reforms to make the process more transparent and democratic in the future, so can prevent this type of corruption.
- And I will continue to be a champion of solutions and evidence-based policy - whether it's how we can keep jobs in Ontario with an EV auto strategy or how we get our finances in order without reckless cuts to the most vulnerable.
- It's for that same reason that one day last year in 15 minutes, I voted in favour of bills put forward by the Conservatives, the NDP and the Liberals. Other MPPs went crazy. They told me to get my caucus under control.
- But I told them this is doing politics differently looks like.
- Greens are about positive ideas and cooperation, first and foremost.
- We are about putting people before party, solutions before attacks.

- Which brings me to my big idea.
- And something that I think is desperately missing in the conversation about the climate crisis.
- As a proud Green and as the province's first Green MPP, I am on a mission to share our vision for a clean and caring economy.
- Yes. The climate crisis is the most urgent threat we have ever faced.
- And as we sit here, fires rage in California, glaciers continue to melt at unprecedented rates, and one million species face the threat of extinction in this century.
- But we can't just talk about the threat.
- We also need to talk about the economic transformation needed to save ourselves and our future.
- And We should see this transformation not as the reluctant chore of fighting climate change --
- but as a golden opportunity to build a bridge to the future that we can walk across safely together.

- To build a cleaner, fairer, more inclusive and caring economy than the one we have today.
- A just transition where no one is left behind.
- The global clean economy is now valued at \$26 trillion and this number keeps going up.
- Over the next five years, \$355 billion will be invested annually in clean energy alone.
- Even without the incentives that should be in place for renewables - and despite the huge subsidies that remain in place for fossil fuels - clean energy jobs are projected to grow by 41% over the next decade while oil and gas jobs continue to decline.
- Already today in Canada, more people work in clean energy than in the oil sands.
- We've got to skate where the puck is going instead of where it's been.
- I want us to be talking about all of the green jobs that are ready for the taking.
- Jobs that will reduce pollution and make use of our skilled workforce.
- Jobs retrofitting our homes and buildings to be more energy efficient.

- Jobs expanding and electrifying mass transit.
- Jobs in cleantech and advanced manufacturing.
- Jobs in forestry, responsible mining, sustainable agriculture and waste reduction.
- Studies show that for every dollar invested in a fossil fuel job, you can create 7x more jobs investing the same dollar in clean energy.
- Ontario ships \$24 Billion out of our economy each year to buy dirty energy from others.
- Imagine if we invested those dollars here at home on clean energy to create jobs in our own economy.
- The people in this room and across Ontario are problem solvers, not problem deniers.
- So while the Premier hands out stickers that won't stick to gas stations and wastes millions sabotaging climate solutions, ---
- I'm squarely focused on how Ontario can be a climate leader and a jobs leader.
- And it's not just about jobs building and retrofitting our infrastructure or changing our technology that matter in this fight.

- It is the jobs in the caring professions - educators, nurses, social workers, mental health practitioners, autism therapists, scientists, researchers, transit workers, and others in the public sector who make our communities livable, caring, inclusive places to thrive.
- These are low-carbon jobs that ensure people and communities are healthy and vibrant.
- We should be investing in these professions rather than arbitrarily cutting them as the Ford government has done.
- I am appalled that the government has continued to inflate the deficit to justify cuts to the most vulnerable,
- at the same time as they have given a tax cut to high income earners, --
- spent \$30M to fight climate action, ---
- and continue to subsidize electricity consumption to the tune of \$4.2 billion per year.
- When we fail to invest in people and in public services, the costs come back to haunt us.
- Earlier this year we saw a report that pegged the costs of poverty at \$33 billion per year in Ontario, most of it in lost economic productivity.

- That staggering statistic has renewed my call for a Basic Income Guarantee.
- We need solutions to bring people into the economic fold rather than leaving them out in the cold.
- Of course you'll recall the Ford government cancelled the BIG pilot even though early evidence was showing people getting back to work, retraining, finding decent housing, and eating healthy food.
- I will continue to push for a BIG because a modern social safety net is essential in our changing world where precarious employment and inequality is on the rise.
- There is another crisis gripping Ontario that we must start talking more about.
- The Housing Crisis.
- It is unacceptable that the average person in the Toronto area must save for 32 years to afford a down payment on a house.
- It is unacceptable that 0% of rental housing in the majority of Ontario's large cities (from Hamilton to KW to Ottawa to Thunder Bay) is affordable to someone on a minimum wage.

- It is unacceptable that we will lose 1,000 square kilometers of prime farmland in the next 10 years at current rates of sprawl.
- We've must unlock affordable housing for all.
- And we must do it In a way that protects places we love.
- We need a housing strategy that puts people before deep-pocketed developers and speculators.
- That's why I'm so proud of the hard work our team has done to look at housing solutions across Canada and around the world.
- The shortage of attainable housing is affecting nearly every corner of our province.
- We must find solutions.
- Because We know that having an affordable place to call home is an essential ingredient in people's well-being, their employment prospects and their quality of life.
- And that's why I'm so excited to be releasing a discussion paper on housing later today
- And why I'll be spending a lot of time over the coming months leading up to 2022 to formulate a

comprehensive, evidence-based, people-powered housing strategy.

The people of Ontario deserve a political party focused more on solutions than on political power.

A party focused on building Ontario up, not tearing other parties down.

As I look around this room, I see committed, passionate, hard working people who want to continue building that party

A Party that does politics differently.

A party that will focus on delivering sustainable solutions to improve people's lives today, tomorrow and for the next 7 generations.

I want to remind all of us that the next election is only 2.5 years away.

It comes as our window for tackling the climate crisis narrows.

We desperately need more Green voices at every level of government.

So, As much fun as it is representing 100% of the Green caucus at Queen's Park, I want friends.

I need friends.

Ontario needs me to have more friends.

We have shown that we can make a huge difference with just one MPP.

Now imagine what we can do with more.

My challenge to you after this weekend is to return to your community and organize, organize, organize.

We need to keep building this party and this movement from the ground up.

Be the leader, be the change we need.

I need your help,

More importantly this province, this country and indeed the world needs you.

Start organizing now around an issue that people care about in your community.

And Build the team you need now to elect Greens in 2022.

Green MPPS who will fight for the clean and caring economy that is so desperately needed to leave our children and grandchildren a livable future.

Thank you. Merci. Megwitch.