



# ONTARIO ELECTION 2018

## CANDIDATE REPORT CARD

### Ask the candidates

Raising issues with candidates that affect  
the most vulnerable ...and all of us

# Ask the candidates...

## CANDIDATE REPORT CARD

An easy way to develop questions for the candidates in your riding is by creating an election “Report Card”. We created one here focussing on issues raised by member agencies of Catholic Charities. The Report Card allows you to “grade” each candidate on their responses. We have suggested questions; add yours, too.

### ON ELECTING A NEW GOVERNMENT

Governments must protect those who are marginalized in society, must provide economic security and an acceptable quality of life for those who are unemployed, displaced, impoverished or afflicted by a mental or physical disability, say Ontario’s Catholic Bishops.

**As a candidate, what is your response to this?  
How will you carry this out as an MPP?**

When we cast our vote, we must consider not only our own needs but those vulnerable people. The dignity of each human person and the pursuit of the common good ought to shape all economic policies. As a candidate, do you agree with this statement?

Only about half of all voting age Ontarians vote in provincial or federal elections. In 2011, it was just 48%, and 2014, it was 51%. Ontario’s Catholic Bishops have said that “it is inconceivable that people would consciously decide not to vote.”

**How would you as an MPP underscore the importance and responsibility to vote?**

### GRADE THE RESPONSE

#### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

#### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

## RESPECT, SUPPORT FOR LIFE | BASIC HUMAN DIGNITY

Canada's Catholic Bishops have said that responsible use of freedom means promotion of human life and dignity at all stages, from conception to death, no matter the circumstances with respect for life and the dignity of the human person as well as the preferential option for the poor.

**As a candidate, do you believe this? How would it shape your vision and mission as an MPP?**

The dignity of each human person and the pursuit of the common good are concerns which ought to shape all economic policies, said Pope Francis. **How do you understand this statement? What does it mean in terms of your role as an Ontario MPP?**

All human beings must be nourished, supported and cherished from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death. **Do you believe that a government is worthy of support, if it favours life, is supportive of families, will make palliative care a priority, fight to end child poverty among other things?**

Canada, and our province, have been known as places of dignity, respect and inclusion of all. Recently, we have seen a growing intrusion and divisiveness of populism and tribalism in both politics and civic life. **What would you and your party do assure a safe, secure and peaceful province and a mutually supportive relationship among its citizens? What do you see as important for building up the quality of life in our communities?**

### GRADE THE RESPONSE

#### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

#### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

## POVERTY | FOCUS ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Poverty remains widespread in Ontario affecting families and their children. Many struggle to survive. They live below a low-income cut-off, the poverty line, where they will likely devote a larger share of their income to basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing) than the average family.

**Income and food security for low-income people has been a major focus of government. How do you think the government should continue to move forward to address poverty in the province?**

**What is your position on high-quality employment opportunities together with training and skills programs?**

**If elected, what issues would you as an MPP take action on in regard to poverty reduction, social assistance and minimum wage, and how would you address such issues?**

**Do you think that a subsidy ought to be provided by the government to help children and families needing special services? If you do, would you give an example of how that might look?**

**Child poverty remains an urgent issue in Ontario. What policies would you implement to reduce child poverty? What would you set as a target and by when would you want to accomplish your targets?**

### GRADE THE RESPONSE

#### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

#### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great



## INCOME SECURITY | PRECARIOUS EMPLOYMENT | LIVING WAGE

Many workers today are engaged in what is called ‘precarious work’ or ‘precarious employment’, characterized by low wages, lack of benefits and possibly greater risk of injury and ill health. **What is your commitment to ensuring that workers in Ontario receive a living wage? How would you end precarious work?**

The income gap makes its presence felt in any number of ways: people cannot afford daycare, elder care, basic household needs. **What will you do to reduce the income gap and make an ordinary quality of life available again for ordinary people?**

**Do you support increasing benefit rates for those on Ontario Works (OW) or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)?**

**What is your position on the idea of merging Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)? If you do support the idea, how do you think merging the two would benefit Ontarians?**

Increasingly in Ontario, families are working multiple low-income jobs just to make ends meet. **Do you support the implementation of a living wage? If so, what should be your party’s first step?**

**If elected, will you implement all measures contained in the external expert group report, ‘Income Security: A Roadmap for Change’? If not, what initiatives will you implement to improve income security for those living at or below the poverty line?**

### GRADE THE RESPONSE

#### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

#### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

# HOMELESSNESS | ADEQUATE, ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing is a key determinant of health and well-being. It is a fundamental right as outlined in Catholic Social Teaching. Adequate housing is essential to a person’s sense of dignity, safety, inclusion and ability to contribute to the fabric of their community and society itself. Housing is a basic need of every individual in our society.

**Will you support our call for the Ontario Government to develop a Residential Housing Accessibility Standard to address our crisis of accessible housing in Ontario?**

**What is your Party’s position on affordable housing and homelessness?**

**If elected, what issues would you as an MPP act on regarding housing and homelessness, and how would you address such issues?**

**Given the lack of affordable housing for persons living with mental illness, does your Party support making such funding a priority?**

**What are the priorities of your Party on housing policies and programs that address challenges faced by First Nations/Aboriginal communities?**

**What measures will you push your party to enact to increase the availability of affordable permanent housing?**

**Adequate, accessible, affordable housing is a need for everyone. What will you and will your party plan do to control the cost of housing for young working families?**

## GRADE THE RESPONSE

### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

# HEALTH CARE | IMPROVING CORE HEALTH

Housing is a key determinant of health and well-being. It is a fundamental right as outlined in Catholic Social Teaching. Adequate housing is essential to a person’s sense of dignity, safety, inclusion and ability to contribute to the fabric of their community and society itself. Housing is a basic need of every individual in our society.

**Improving the quality of health of everyone in Ontario should be a goal of everyone.**

**How will you and your party ensure that essential health benefits are readily available to everyone and that low-income families and individuals have access to the services they need, especially those persons living in deepest poverty?**

**How will your Party ensure that adequate funding is allocated to community-based health care to enable older adults and those with chronic conditions and developmental delays to remain in the community for as long as possible?**

**Is your Party committed to looking at alternative approaches to costly medical services provided by physicians and nurses?**

**How will you balance the need for more long-term care beds with the need to increase supports for families/caregivers looking after loved ones in the community?**

## GRADE THE RESPONSE

### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

# MENTAL HEALTH

Among the most vulnerable persons in our community are those people who live with a physical or developmental disability and are in need of community care services. It is said: a society is judged on how it treats the most vulnerable of their members.

## DEAFNESS AND ACCESSIBILITY

The needs of Deaf Ontarians are not being fully met when one looks at access to language. This is in terms of language acquisition, direct access to curriculum in education and accommodations in the classroom, access to mental health services in AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) and adequate accommodation and cultural sensitivity.

**What is your commitment to an having an accessible province as regards AODA for Deaf Ontarians? For unemployment and under-employment of Deaf Ontarians?**

Barriers faced by Deaf children in their formative years is gaining direct access to curriculum in education and accommodations in the classroom, access to mental health services in AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) and adequate accommodation and cultural sensitivity. **What is your commitment to ensuring that the province respond with the funding to provide the necessary means for Deaf children to be able to communicate at all these levels?**

Accessibility standards for Ontarians with disabilities or AODA was enacted by the provincial government in 2005. Yet much of it has not been put into place to address barriers in education, health care, and residential housing.

**How will you work to ensure that AOD is made fully functional and implemented?**

**How will your party develop a Health Care Accessibility Standard to make our health care system's services fully accessible to patients and health care providers with disabilities?**

## GRADE THE RESPONSE

### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great



# MENTAL HEALTH (CONTINUED)

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Developmental disabilities cause individuals living with them many difficulties, especially in language, mobility, learning, self-help, and independent living.

**Are you committed to continuing funding in Ontario for programs assist people living with developmental disabilities such as the current Passport Program to help adults 18 years and older who are living with a developmental disability to participate in their communities.**

**How will you and your party provide funding and support to families who have children with special needs (for day programs)?**

**The need for transportation for people with disabilities is great. What will your party do to provide assistance for transportation for intellectually challenged adults?**

**Does your party have a plan for providing housing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities? If not, would you explain why it does not?**

## GRADE THE RESPONSE

### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

## MENTAL HEALTH (CONTINUED)

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women takes the form of domestic violence, sexual assault, abuse, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, cyber harassment, sexual harassment to mention just a few. One in three Canadian women will experience sexual assault in their lifetime.

**What have you done to bring about an end to violence against women?**

**How would you push your government to continue the momentum to end gender-based violence, provide support to survivors of violence and address its root causes?**

**If elected, would you advocate in your party to provide more funding for social service agencies providing counselling and other services that deal with domestic family violence, sexual assault, abuse, human trafficking, and sexual harassment?**

### GRADE THE RESPONSE

#### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

#### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

# MENTAL HEALTH (CONTINUED)

## OLDER PERSONS | 'SENIORS'

Our society is aging quickly. We have many challenges now and the challenges will continue to be present unless a commitment is made to enhance service delivery.

**Does your party believe that seniors should be given the opportunity to age at home. If so, what system would do you believe needs to be put in place?**

The number of older persons is growing in Ontario. Many of them live in poverty or on very small, fixed incomes. **How do you and your party propose to respond to efforts to create more affordable and supportive housing for seniors?**

Our society is aging quickly. We have many challenges now and the challenges will continue to be present unless a commitment is made to enhance service delivery.

**How will your party ensure delivery of services to isolated seniors in our communities?**

**How will your party provide the leadership to bring together public, private, volunteer and faith community resources to ensure that over the next 40 years growing numbers of frail elders will be treated with respect and dignity?**

## GRADE THE RESPONSE

### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative Justice focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large in the context of our criminal justice system.

We have lived in a flurry of facts, alleged and otherwise, around criminal justice; some advocate for a hard-on-crime approach - build more jails, spend more money on jail security, punish more severely, provide less programming; some would suggest developing further the community resources to be a focus of healing within the community where the crime likely originated, alternate sentencing, alcoholism and drug addictions as medical health issues. **Where does your party stand on these concerns? What would you offer healthy communities?**

Over some years now, we have learned the spirit and practice of restorative justice from the Indigenous people of Canada, the very ones who may well suffer most from our unjust practices. **What is your party's position on rectifying the wrongs against Indigenous People and all minority people, including people of colour, through the use of widespread support and enhancement of restorative practices? What would you do to encourage a new beginning in true justice?**

**Does your Party support an approach to public policy which focuses on preventing, wherever possible, the involvement of people with mental illness in the criminal justice system** (for example, making opportunities available and accessible for diversion to treatment/rehabilitation services that meet people's differing needs)?

## GRADE THE RESPONSE

### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

# INDIGENOUS

## MMIWG INDIGENOUS WOMEN

The Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Commission reveals the intense destructiveness not only on Indigenous women but also on Indigenous people and their culture. We need to continue to remain vigilant regarding issues of violence against women and how these are particularly focussed with regard to Indigenous women.

Ending violence against Indigenous women is a major concern. Indigenous women and girls are over-represented among women who live in poverty and among those women who are sexual exploited and trafficked. Why do you believe the disproportionately high number of Indigenous women incarcerated in the criminal justice system today is of momentous concern? How would your party work to end the high level of violations to Indigenous women's basic human rights? for diversion to treatment/rehabilitation services that meet people's differing needs)?

## GRADE THE RESPONSE

### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

# INDIGENOUS (CONTINUED)

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) prompted a national reflection on how we must build strong connections with Indigenous peoples in Canada and understand how and where our common experiences intersect.

**What policies would you put in place to build mutual respect, and support reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Ontario and Canada?**

**Will you work to have Ontario honour the treaty obligations to First Nations?**

**What changes would you make to education and post-secondary education in Ontario to ensure a greater awareness and understanding of Indigenous history, knowledge and culture?**

## GRADE THE RESPONSE

### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great



# PALLIATIVE CARE

Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of persons and their families who face life-threatening illness through prevention and relief of suffering, treatment of pain and other problems. Canada’s Catholic Bishops remind us that helping someone commit suicide, however, is neither an act of justice or mercy, nor is it part of palliative care.

There is a great need to increase the availability of palliative care and hospice to the poorest, most vulnerable in our society. **Do you favour providing quality early, integrated and safe palliative care for the homeless and vulnerably housed populations with a focus on prioritizing dignity for all?**

**Do you believe that it is important to educate and support mainstream palliative care services in Ontario municipalities to work effectively with homeless populations?**

**What is your position or your party’s on increasing the competency of front-line agencies serving community homeless to support people facing end of life?**

**Do you think that it is most important now to advance the body of knowledge for delivery of palliative care for homeless and vulnerably housed patients?**

**Are you in favour of more government funding and resources for palliative care facilities and hospices? Why is it important?**

## GRADE THE RESPONSE

### Knowledge

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

### Response

poor (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) great

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES of the Archdiocese of Toronto** supports community services through its twenty-seven member agencies, providing services that improve the social and economic well-being of people in Toronto, Peel, York and Durham regions, Dufferin and Simcoe counties.

For over 100 years, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto has been providing leadership and raising awareness about issues that affect the poor and marginalized in our society, drawing on Catholic Social Teaching and challenging us to build a more just society and safeguard the dignity of every person.

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