

# PERTH- WELLINGTON

## CANDIDATE Q & A





# HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

GUELPH RIDING / 2018

## QUESTION:

How would you and your party ensure that the province meets its target of reducing chronic homelessness by 2025?



### Paul McKendrick, Consensus Ontario

Why 2025? Poverty and homelessness requires immediate action now, and not put off to sometime in the future. It is also time that the vision to restore Ontario to its former Promised Land status be renewed! No Ontarian should be without accommodation, food, shower or washroom facilities, and neither should these same people be denied service at restaurants. There are many reasons why people end up on the streets, but lip service to our poor should not be our formal public policy response.



### Lisa Olsen, Green Party of Ontario

We believe in a housing first strategy. Our Basic Income Guarantee plan will do just that, so that people's basic needs can be met as they work on the source of their homelessness: job loss, mental health, addictions, etc.

All candidates identified on the Elections Ontario website for this riding were invited to participate. Candidates who completed the Q & A are represented above.





# HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

GUELPH RIDING / 2018

## QUESTION:

How would you and your party support the work of municipalities in Ontario to increase the supply of affordable housing?



### Paul McKendrick, Consensus Ontario

Affordable reasonably priced housing needs to be prioritized because more and more families are being denied home ownership opportunities. Problematic is government policy that regulates/hinders private sector construction, and limits housing to urban centres. We should review agricultural severance polices that prevent farmers from providing affordable housing to their children. Encourage the private sector to provide non-profit cooperative housing and independent living options in rural areas.



### Lisa Olsen, Green Party of Ontario

We want to do a number of things: mandate that all new builds in ontario have 20% affordable housing units - that's condos, rental and detached homes; update zoning laws to allow for tiny homes, laneway housing, etc.; put a tax on vacant properties so that people cannot purchase homes to sit on them as the housing prices rise; put a surtax on quick turnaround (flipped) sales; and offer a green mortgage: an ultra-low interest rate for energy efficient homes.

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# INCOME

GUELPH RIDING / 2018

## QUESTIONS:

How much will your party increase basic OW and ODSP rates?  
Will your party also ensure that everyone on OW and ODSP gets at least the full basic needs and shelter amounts by implementing a standard flat rate in both programs?

Will you support seeing the current basic income pilot through its intended duration & evaluation?



Consensus Ontario

### Paul McKendrick, Consensus Ontario

I believe every citizen of Ontario deserves a guaranteed living wage, and similarly, opportunities to actively participate in both the economy and community social fabric. I expressed these same opinions when government assigned specific cities for guaranteed income pilot project status, at the expense of too other Ontarians struggling with poverty. Needless to say, the increasing reliance on food banks is changing families generationally, and sadly, our society as a whole. We can do better!

Yes



Party of Ontario

### Lisa Olsen, Green Party of Ontario

We want to implement a Basic Income Guarantee for all Ontarians. This would not only increase the monthly amount for people on ODSP and OW, but would also reduce the stigma and red tape of using and accessing these services.

Yes

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# MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

GUELPH RIDING / 2018

## QUESTION:

What actions will you and your party take to respond to the escalating impacts of mental health and addictions in our community?



### Paul McKendrick, Consensus Ontario

Wynne's \$2.1 billion annual grant targeting 18-21 year olds for mental health suggests we have only failed youth. This is not accurate, denying access and services to all ages. The issue is spiritual, in that we have turned away from the supremacy of God in our public institutions, and instead looked to our own wisdom for solutions. Sadly, mental illness and addictions are increasing. It is time to restore hope and purpose in the hearts of Ontarians and reinstate the Lord's Prayer in schools.



### Lisa Olsen, Green Party of Ontario

We want mental health and addictions to be part of OHIP, because mental health is health. We want to declare the opioid crisis a state of emergency so that funds flow faster, and we want to create an umbrella organization that creates a province-wide strategy for mental health and addiction issues.

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# DECENT WORK

GUELPH RIDING / 2018

## QUESTIONS:

What will you and your party do to ensure decent work for all?

Do you support a \$15 minimum wage by January 1, 2019?



### Paul McKendrick, Consensus Ontario

Affordable reasonably priced housing needs to be prioritized because more and more families are being denied home ownership opportunities. Problematic is government policy that regulates/hinders private sector construction, and limits housing to urban centres. We should review agricultural severance policies that prevent farmers from providing affordable housing to their children. Encourage the private sector to provide non-profit cooperative housing and independent living options in rural areas.

Focus on private sector job creation. I support a living wage for everyone, including opportunities for entry-level youth to enter the workforce. I also believe government should lead by example by ensuring that the wages paid to public sector employees reflect salaries in the private sector. Tax incentives should be provided to employers who hire and train new employees. Basic income thresholds should be increased on the provincial income tax form so that no family or individual is left behind.

Yes



### Lisa Olsen, Green Party of Ontario

We want to lower payroll taxes for small businesses and non-profits to help with raising the minimum wage.

Yes

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# ORAL HEALTH

GUELPH RIDING / 2018

## QUESTION:

1 in 5 in Ontario can't afford private dental care. Many end up in the ER. There are no public dental programs for adults who can't afford private dentists. What steps would your party take to address this oral healthcare problem?



**Paul McKendrick, Consensus Ontario**

All Ontarians, including individuals who are homeless should be privy to the very SAME dental, medical and post-secondary education services as public service employees. We should not be condoning privilege in certain sectors by virtue of holding a civil service position. Period!



**Lisa Olsen, Green Party of Ontario**

We want to implement a universal dental care program for all Ontarians.

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# FOOD INSECURITY

GUELPH RIDING / 2018

## QUESTION:

Household food insecurity occurs when there is inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. In Ontario, 1 in 8 households experiences food insecurity. What steps will your party take to reduce this number?



**Paul McKendrick, Consensus Ontario**

In order for Ontario to become economically sustainable (including the availability of healthy and affordable food choices for all), public policy and burdening regulations have to align with our trading partners -- so that Ontario farmers are not disadvantaged. For all families there should be accessible programs that teach us how to eat nutritionally (in accordance with Canada's food guide) without breaking the bank. Potentially involve seniors who have lived in depressed times in this too.



**Lisa Olsen, Green Party of Ontario**

The Basic Income Guarantee will greatly reduce food insecurities. We also want to invest in community food programs, such as community gardens, and reinstate Eat Right Ontario.

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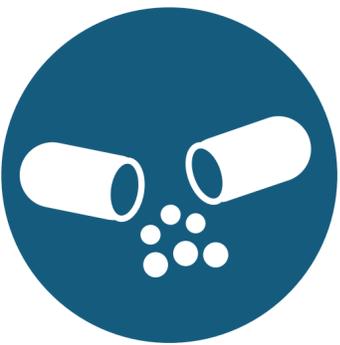
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# PHARMACARE

GUELPH RIDING / 2018

## QUESTION:

Nobody should be forced to choose between paying for groceries and paying for the medication they need. How will your party ensure that everyone has access to prescription drug coverage, regardless of their income, age, or where they work or live?



**Paul McKendrick, Consensus Ontario**

All Ontarians including individuals who are homeless should be privy to the very SAME medication coverage as those public servants who earn their income from the fruits of the private sector.



**Lisa Olsen, Green Party of Ontario**

We want prescription drugs for each person in Ontario to be included in OHIP+

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