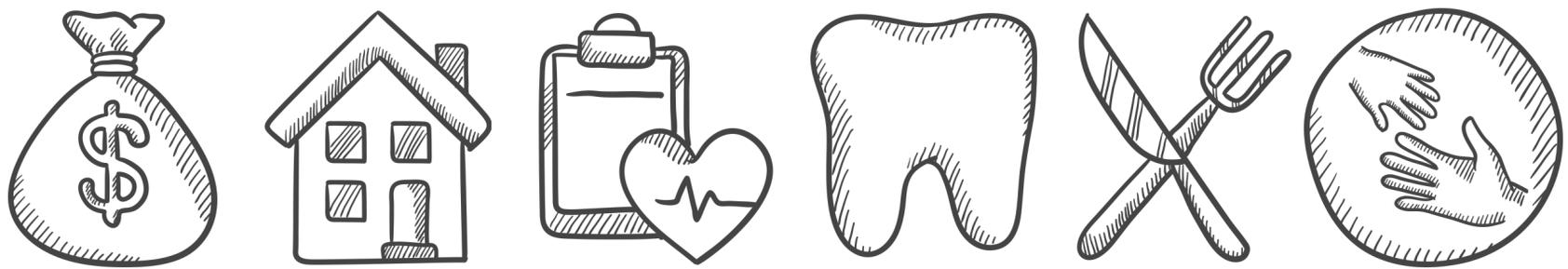


# Wellington-Halton Hills Candidate Q & A

Provincial Election 2022



## Content Disclaimer:

Candidate responses shared in this document are unedited. Please note that they do not necessarily align with the positions and stances of the Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination. The Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination is a non-partisan organization.

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





## QUESTION 1:

Ontario is experiencing an affordable housing crisis. What actions will you and your party take to build, protect, and support deeply affordable housing?



### Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario

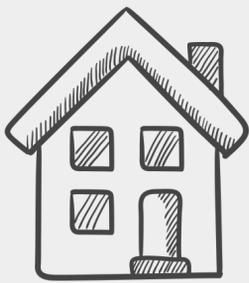
One of the Consensus Ontario principles is strengthening the ability of Municipalities to provide local services including affordable housing. Decisions regarding community housing should be made by Municipalities in partnership with Community organizations and not at Queens Park. A Consensus Ontario MPP will ensure that the funding be made available to deliver those innovative solutions (e.g. cooperative housing) that can only be known and delivered effectively at the local level. This approach will be provide the context to provide support for all residents of Wellington-Halton Hills only and not all of Ontario.



### Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party

The Liberal Party has a plan to re-introduce rent controls for all rental accommodations. We also plan to build 138,000 deeply affordable homes including social and community homes, supportive housing and housing for Indigenous people and, working with partners, ensure that there are ownership options for marginalize communities. We will establish the Ontario Home Building Corporation to finance and build affordable homes and unlock provincial land to allow homes to be built.





## QUESTION 2:

Will your party commit to preventing and eliminating homelessness in Ontario and what action will you take so that everyone in Ontario can find a place to call home that meets their needs?



### Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario

A Consensus Ontario MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills will commit to preventing and eliminating homelessness in Wellington-Halton Hills. This is the issue with traditional party politics where the majority party in power attempts to "fix" problems for all Ontarians. A Consensus Ontario MPP will work Community organizations to tackle homelessness in Wellington-Halton Hills. Yes indeed, everyone in Wellington-Halton Hills should be able to find a place to call home.



### Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party

Yes, our plan will address homelessness in many ways including establishing housing as a fundamental human right and will provide people with safe and reliable shelter. We will provide municipalities and housing support providers with \$100 million per year to promote a Housing First approach to quickly move people into independent, permanent housing with comprehensive supports. We will fund new shelters and renovate existing shelters as a transition to stable, permanent housing.



### QUESTION 3:

Discrimination and systemic oppression contribute to higher poverty rates experienced by women, people with disabilities, Indigenous people, people of colour, newcomers and people with precarious immigration status. What will you and your party do to alleviate poverty for all people in Ontario?

Will your party implement a basic income guarantee?



#### Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario

A Consensus Ontario MPP will work in partnership with local Municipalities and Community organizations to alleviate poverty for all people in Wellington-Halton Hills. This can be done through obtaining the appropriate funding to deliver educational and employment opportunities for those mired in poverty.

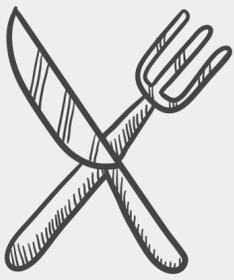
No



#### Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party

Our first step to alleviate poverty will be to raise the minimum wage. Our \$10 a day day care will encourage more parents to enter the work force and assist those struggling to afford reliable child care. We will raise ODSP rates by at least 20% for people with disabilities. For women, we will implement the Pay Transparency Act to ensure equal pay and will repeal the Pay Equity Act sections of Bill 106 to ensure pay equity and equal opportunities for promotion and professional development. We will require publicly listed companies to disclose representation of women, Indigenous people and people of colour on boards and management teams.

Yes



## QUESTION 4:

Household food insecurity occurs when there is inadequate or insecure access to food due to not having enough money. What income-based interventions will your party implement to help solve this issue?

Will your party increase Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates and will you index social assistance rate increases to inflation?



### Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario

A Consensus Ontario MPP will work in partnership with Municipalities and Community organizations to secure access for food for all people in Wellington-Halton Hills not having enough money to pay for their food.

Yes



### Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party

We will raise the minimum wage to \$16 per hour to start and work toward a living wage strategy to ensure a fair wage consistent with the cost of living in different regions. We will work with food suppliers to ensure fair food prices. We will raise ODSP rates and by reintroducing rent controls, we will enable income earners to have more money available to purchase food. We will bring back the basic income pilot program.

Yes



## QUESTION 5:

What action will you and your party take to ensure all workers in Ontario have decent work that offers fair wages and working conditions, including paid sick days?



### Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario

I will be candid in that I don't understand what defines "decent work that offers fair work wages and working conditions" including an appropriate amount of paid sick days. As such I am not in a position to answer this question.



### Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party

We will raise the minimum wage to \$16 per hour to start. We will ensure that every worker has access to benefits and 10 paid sick days per year.



## QUESTION 6:

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?



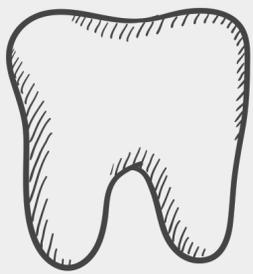
### Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario

A Consensus Ontario MPP first needs to determine which residents of Wellington-Halton Hills require assistance for access to prescription drug coverage. Once this assessment is made then the appropriate funding can be obtained to bridge the gap so there's no need to make this choice between groceries and paying for medication.



### Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party

By introducing a benefit package for all workers, prescription drug costs will be made more affordable or eliminated. For those not covered, we will offer a portable benefits plan that will provide prescription drug coverage. We will work with the federal government to implement a national pharmacare plan. Anyone not captured in the portable benefits The plan will be covered by OHIP+ or the Ontario Drug Benefit Plan.



## QUESTION 7:

An estimated 3 million people in Ontario cannot afford dental care. What steps will your party take to fill the gap in access to dental care?



### Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario

This has been actioned at the federal level with the announcement of the Liberal NDP Supply and Confidence Agreement. A Consensus Government as practiced in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories has no political parties. Independent Members of the Legislature Assembly (MLA's) elect the Premier and Cabinet Ministers who form the "Government". All the remaining MLA's form a majority Loyal Opposition. As there are no political parties in place "agreements" such as the Liberal-NDP one to retain power are not needed.



### Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party

The portable benefits package explained above will include a dental plan. It will be available to all workers, no matter the size of the business.



## QUESTION 8:

Years of chronic underfunding of the community mental health and addictions system have led to longer wait times and fewer services for Ontarians. Will your party commit to significant investments in the community mental health and addiction system?



### Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario

A Consensus Ontario MPP will commit to investments in the Wellington-Halton Hills mental health and addiction system.



### Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party

The Liberal Party is committed to expand mental health services to all Ontarians by investing \$3 billion into mental health and addiction services. We will require that mental health services are included in employer benefit packages.





## QUESTION 9:

**Asked in partnership with the Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy:**  
What action will your party take to address and end the drug poisoning crisis?



### **Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario**

A Consensus Ontario MPP will commit the funding to support the 4 Pillar drug strategy of Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery with Wellington-Halton Hills and as well work collaboratively with other Consensus Ontario MPP's within the Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network of Ontario (MDSCNO).



### **Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party**

We will invest \$300 million into prevention, intervention and treatment programs and will make life-saving harm reduction supplies and sites more available. We will reactivate the Opioid Emergency Task Force to provide advice and recommendations for services required to address this important epidemic.



## QUESTION 10:

Asked in partnership with the Community Resilience Coalition of Guelph & Wellington:

Adverse Childhood Experiences and other forms of adversity can increase the risk of negative outcomes across the lifespan. Resilience is our ability to successfully adapt to adversity and maintain wellbeing; it relies on our interactions with the people, resources and environments around us. What steps will you and your party take to prevent and reduce adversity and promote resilience among children and their families?



### Ron Patava, Consensus Ontario

A Consensus Ontario MPP will commit funding to support the Community Resilience Coalition Mission Statement of "working together to build resilience and decrease risk factors that impact health and wellbeing."



### Tom Takacs, Ontario Liberal Party

By addressing child poverty through economic dignity for families, improved health care and education systems, supports for children with special needs, especially autism, ensuring safe and affordable homes, we will improve the lifestyle for children and their families. Mental health supports for children in schools and their families within the health care system will contribute to better outcomes. We will improve the legal aid system and the child welfare system to aid parents struggling with legal and family stability issues.