

## PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE – 2022



The Ontario Environmental Priorities Working Group represents 13 organizations working to improve life for Ontarians by ensuring a healthy environment and healthy planet. Together, we have [developed a blueprint](#) for the changes the next Ontario government needs to make to ensure a prosperous, healthy and sustainable province. We have made this blueprint available to all parties represented in the Ontario Legislature directly and have discussed its recommendations with many of you. As we approach the provincial election in June, we want to know where your party stands on the issues we have raised. We will post your party's answers verbatim on our collective website – [greenprosperity.ca](https://greenprosperity.ca) – and will inform our more than half million members and the Ontario public about your responses.

Please return this questionnaire to the Ontario Priorities coordinator, Brad Cundiff, by April 8, 2022 via email at [brad@glcommunications.ca](mailto:brad@glcommunications.ca). If you have any questions or need further information, Brad can be reached at 647-298-5125.

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Q1. Will your party commit to meeting the target of protecting 30% of Ontario's lands and waters by 2030 in keeping with Canada's international commitments?

Q2. Will your party strengthen Ontario's Endangered Species Act and restore a science-base approach to species recovery, including mandatory habitat protection? Will you overturn the broad exemptions granted to industry under the ESA that enable industrial and development activities to destroy the habitat of at-risk species?

Q3. Will your party ensure that Ontario protects natural areas that play a key role in climate mitigation, such as the boreal forest and the peatlands of the Hudson Bay Lowland, and work with Indigenous communities to plan for the future of these carbon-rich areas?

Q4. Would your government support the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the passing of Bill 76, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, 2019* in Ontario?

Q5. Will your party commit to reducing the province's greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2005 levels by 2030? What actions will you take to meet targets and how will you assure Ontarians that targets will be met?

Q6. Will your party commit to phasing out gas-fired electricity by 2030 and prioritize investment in cost-effective renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts as part of a renewed focus on creating an efficient, flexible and zero carbon electricity system?

Q7. Will your party protect farmland and wildlife habitat in Ontario's most imperiled southern regions by immediately cancelling Hwy. 413 and the Bradford Bypass and restarting the Municipal Comprehensive Review process with rules that contain growth within existing urban boundaries? Will you ensure that urban growth for the next 30 years is used not to create more car-dependent neighborhoods, but to transform Ontario's existing car-dependent neighborhoods and commercial areas into complete communities where most trips rely on public transit and active transportation?

Q8. Will your party enact a moratorium on new aggregate pits and quarries while developing a strategy for reducing the need for virgin raw materials through improved aggregate recycling, new construction approaches, and avoiding construction of unnecessary new highways?

Q9. Will your party restore the role of Conservation Authorities in protecting watersheds and natural systems?

Q10. Will your party commit to establishing a dedicated green infrastructure fund to allow for the planning, delivery, and ongoing management of green infrastructure projects with multiple benefits, from increasing climate change resiliency and improving urban quality of life to spurring the creation of thousands of new jobs? Specifically, will you ensure that at least 15% of provincial infrastructure funding is for green infrastructure?

Q11. Will your party endorse a source to tap approach to protecting water quality and quantity by funding and implementing efforts to reduce pollutants like phosphorous and plastic reaching our lakes and rivers, properly controlling water takings to protect community supplies, helping municipalities get the lead out of water systems and homes, and protecting the huge intact watersheds in the far north of the province?

Q12. Will your party embrace forward looking planning by strengthening and expanding environmental assessments, including greater use of cumulative and regional assessment processes and expanding project coverage?

Q13. Will your party commit to improving the Extended Producer Responsibility system by adding the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector, setting and enforcing higher recycling targets for plastic packaging and establishing a deposit on beverage containers? Will you also reject efforts to burn “plastic-to-fuel” and commit to banning organics in landfills?

Q14. Will your party make efforts to reduce the toxins accumulating in our environment and in our bodies by banning PFAS, ensuring products sent for recycling do not contain toxics, and requiring labelling of known toxic ingredients on all products?

Q15. Will your party help clear the air in communities with high air pollution levels by requiring real-time monitoring and reporting of air contaminants and strong plans to improve air quality in overburdened communities?

Q16. Will your party restore the pesticides classification system and the pesticides advisory committee and end the outdoor use of neonics to protect pollinators and workers?

Q17. How would your party amend environmental protections across the province to ensure that low-income and vulnerable communities are not exposed to higher levels of environmental harm than other people in the province?