



May 24, 2022

Bonnie Crombie  
Mayor, City of Mississauga

Dear Bonnie,

Thank you for writing regarding the City of Mississauga's priorities. I'm pleased to share in detail the Liberal Plan for Ontario, called [\*A Place to Grow\*](#).

Ontario can be a place to grow, if we make the right choices. We need to rebuild what's always made us strong. Education. Health care. Public services that support working families. They're all key to a better future and economic dignity for our families. That's what motivates our Liberal team to work relentlessly for all of Ontario. That's what's at the core of our competent and inclusive plan to deliver for families.

An Ontario Liberal government will be a true partner with the City of Mississauga to both address the impacts of the pandemic, and to adopt an inclusive, whole community approach that leaves no one behind.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss any of this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Del Duca".

Steven Del Duca  
Leader  
Ontario Liberal Party

## **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

**Will you and your party commit to build complete communities as well as respect the importance of local input and municipal decision-making? If so, please elaborate on your plan.**

The Ontario Liberal Party is committed to building complete communities and respecting the importance of local input and municipal decision-making. Whether it is making affordable housing a reality by converting under-utilized industrial and strip malls into liveable spaces or finally unlocking provincial land, the Ontario Liberal Party has a bold vision when it comes to tackling the housing crisis.



An Ontario Liberal government is committed to scrapping Ministerial Zoning Orders which have been weaponized by the Ford Conservatives to rezone land without any public or environmental consultation. The Ontario Liberal Party plans on replacing these Ministerial Zoning Orders with a new rules-based measure limited to critical provincial projects, such as not-for-profit long-term care homes and affordable housing. We will also support municipalities to approve housing as quickly and responsibly as possible – providing municipalities with \$300 million in new funding over five years. Finally, we'll reward local governments that meet or exceed housing targets in an environmentally-sustainable manner with dedicated capital funding to use for local priorities, such as transit or community amenities.

**Will you commit to permitting Inclusionary Zoning everywhere the market can support it (e.g. large greyfield sites) and permit cash-in-lieu of inclusionary zoning?**

Inclusionary zoning is an essential tool that mandates the creation of high-quality affordable housing in new developments. However, without careful implementation it can instead be used to prevent housing from being built. To ensure inclusionary zoning succeeds over the long-term and get more affordable homes built quickly, we'll include tie-in measures with inclusionary zoning by-laws such as increasing the number of overall homes allowed to be built and permitting its expansion along rapid transit lines.

**Will your party commit to leveraging provincially-owned land by requiring a minimum of 20 per cent affordable units be built when selling surplus land to developers?**

An Ontario Liberal government will establish the Ontario Home Building Corporation and unlock provincial land for home-building purposes. The Ontario Home Building Corporation will be tasked with collaborating with municipalities, not-for-profit housing partners and developers to build, fund, and maintain affordable homes of all types. It will also develop surplus provincial lands, including safely burying more electric transmission lines underground to unlock up to 80,000 acres of land for new homes. The Corporation will receive historic \$15 billion in capital funding subject to strict oversight – including a hard cap on administrative expenses and salaries and a 15-year mandate to ensure housing is built rapidly, cool the housing market and end the waitlist for affordable public housing. This will include building 138,000 deeply affordable homes province-wide – 78,000 new social and community homes, 38,000 homes in supportive housing and 22,000 new homes for Indigenous peoples. Any homes sold by the Ontario Home Building Corporation will be available only to first-time home buyers, and any proceeds will go directly back into creating more affordable homes.

**Will you actively discourage investor-owned residential real estate by implementing a capital gains tax (excluding principal residences) and improve the Provincial Non-resident Speculation Tax?**

An Ontario Liberal government will implement an empty homes tax of 5% of assessed value on non-Canadian owners and 2% for Canadian owners with vacant residential units in all urban areas – and any revenue raised will be spent on affordable housing. We will also collaborate with our federal partners to ban new non-resident ownership in Ontario's housing market for at least the next four years. To discourage delays in house-building, the Ontario Liberal Party



will introduce a new 'use it or lose it' levy on speculators with serviced land and approved building permits.

## **PUBLIC TRANSIT**

**Will you and your party commit to investing in priority transit projects such as restoring the Downtown Loop to the Hurontario LRT?**

Yes, an Ontario Liberal government is committed to expanding public transit and slashing fares to a buck-a-ride until 2024 which will get 400,000 car trips off the road each day. In particular, the Ontario Liberal Party plans on restoring the Hurontario LRT loop around Square One that was cut by Doug Ford. The Ontario Liberal Party will also maintain all existing funded transit plans such as the Hurontario LRT and dedicated bus rapid transit projects in Mississauga. To reduce traffic congestion, we will also complete the widening of Highway 401 between Milton and Mississauga.

**The Milton GO line is the second busiest in the GTA. We need all-day, twoway service immediately. The federal government has already committed up to \$50 million. Will your party commit to investing the remaining project costs to make all-day, two way service on the Milton corridor a reality?**

Yes, an Ontario Liberal government is committed to investing the remaining project costs to implement a two-way, all-day Milton GO service for all seven days of the week.

## **FUNDING FOR CITIES**

**Will you and your party commit to help municipalities recover from the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing the Safe Restart funding to ensure the operation and delivery of critical municipal services?**

An Ontario Liberal government is committed to reviewing municipal fiscal sustainability coming out of the pandemic and will always respect and empower the autonomy of municipalities – refusing to use the notwithstanding clause to trample over local decision making like the Ford Conservatives did. We will continue the joint federal-provincial investments needed, including the initial planned \$632 million in 2022, to maintain the operation and delivery of critical municipal services coming out of the pandemic, like public transit and homelessness support. We will also make new, sustainable and annual investments totalling approximately \$1.3 billion to support municipalities, including \$375 million for municipal transit, \$360 million for operating social, supportive and community housing services, \$250 million for climate resilient infrastructure, \$100 million for homelessness, \$100 million for cycling infrastructure, \$60 million for planning and housing approval and \$53 million for mental health first responders. Our plan to slash public transit fares to a buck-a-ride and replace all fare revenue will also help recover ridership. An Ontario Liberal government will always be there for municipalities to support delivering the critical services that Ontarians rely on.



**Do you and your party commit to developing long-term, predictable, and sustainable funding programs from the provincial government to specifically fund the building and maintenance of municipal infrastructure?**

An Ontario Liberal government will be committed to sustainable support for municipal infrastructure. Our plan includes a new \$1 billion over 10 years to support the preservation and repair of 260,000 existing social and community housing, in addition to \$360 million in annual operating support which will increase as more homes are built. We will also invest \$15 billion over 10 years through the Ontario Home Building Corporation to partner with municipalities to build 138,000 deeply affordable homes.

We'll provide municipalities with \$100 million annually to build separated bike lanes and cycling trails, expand bike sharing and rental services and secure bike parking. We'll restore and expand natural infrastructure like wetlands and green roofs and support communities in becoming more resilient to extreme weather through a new \$250 million annual fund. We also have a plan to plant 100 million trees per year over the next eight year, which will be available to municipalities to contribute to the urban tree canopy and restore ecosystems.

An Ontario Liberal government also intends to end for-profit long-term care and finance the transfer of these homes to municipalities and not-for-profit entities.

## **ECONOMIC SUPPORTS**

**Will you and your party invest in local business innovation and competitiveness by extending the funding for the Digital Main Street program recipients (up to 3 years) to support service continuity and retain skilled business advisors? Will your party expand existing programs to support small and medium sized businesses in assessing and adopting advanced and sustainable technologies? Please explain.**

Small businesses are the heart of Ontario's economy, so they are central to our recovery plan. For the last two years, much of Ontario hasn't been "open for business." The pandemic's devastating impacts on people's jobs and small businesses were made worse by the Ford Conservatives' chaotic decision making.

While the Ford Conservatives offered rigid, inaccessible and frankly inadequate grant programs for Ontario's small businesses, an Ontario Liberal government would eliminate corporate taxes for two years for small businesses deeply hurt by the pandemic. Relief would be scaled to losses in revenues and eliminated entirely for businesses that lost more than 50% of revenues as a result of the pandemic.

Our government will help small businesses mitigate these challenges by boosting the flow of capital by partnering with financial institutions and credit unions to backstop loans and support tens of thousands of small businesses. We'll help finance start-up costs like equipment and real estate through a \$300 million loan portfolio, with targeted outreach to small businesses led by women and people of colour. An Ontario Liberal government would also eliminate incorporation fees for new business start-ups.



We are committed to supporting businesses as they expand to digital environments. In particular, the Ontario Liberal Party will increase funding for digital main street programming to \$40 million on an ongoing basis. We'll also reduce the risks to online transactions by promoting low-cost cybersecurity solutions for businesses to keep their data safe. The Ontario Liberal Party also promises to modernize Ontario's outdated privacy, data and intellectual property laws to better protect people's personal information and keep businesses secure. To promote innovation and commercialization, an Ontario Liberal government will make strategic investments through a Grow Ontario fund in high-potential Ontario companies with proven track records.

**Will you and your party invest in talent development and access by expanding and funding programs that foster collaboration between education and training institutions and industry stakeholders to develop flexible, demand-driven education and training programs for small and medium sized businesses? Will your party commit to developing dedicated funding streams that address the gaps experienced by small and medium sized businesses in accessing workforce development supports and resources? Will you and your party build upon existing provincial incentives for businesses to provide work opportunities for persons facing challenges to employment, including new graduates, long-term unemployed, newcomers and persons with disabilities?**

An Ontario Liberal government will expand the availability of highly-focused programs called microcredentials that can help teach new skills quickly in partnership with employers and educators. Our plan includes a four-year \$1 billion fund to support postsecondary institutions and training institutes in making these transformative changes.

We'll help more people get on-the-job training by funding opportunities through the Canada-Ontario Job Grant and SkillsAdvance – and we'll create new targeted support for young people unable to find secure employment. We'll also approve new college, university and training programs more quickly and offer greater flexibility to adapt those programs to meet the evolving needs of the job market. We'll expand universal access to free career counseling with targeted services for people in communities underrepresented in certain careers with a \$50 million investment. We'll increase funding for newcomer settlement services by \$7 million with a focus on more support for young newcomers, a 24-hour support line and school translation services and language classes.

To get more people into the skilled trades – especially those underrepresented in the trades – we'll enhance the apprenticeship system, working with unions, employers and schools to promote these great opportunities and make it easier to participate in an apprenticeship. This includes expanding the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and reintroducing shop classes in more high schools, as well as funding union and employer-led training at more comparable levels to colleges. We'll also give \$2,000 to those who go into apprenticeship training by doubling the existing federal incentive grant.

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) helps students pay for college and university, but the Ford Conservatives cut the program's budget by more than half – forcing thousands of students to take on more debt or leave school. We'll reverse these damaging cuts, giving significantly more grants that students never have to pay back and ensuring no qualified



student is prevented from pursuing higher learning due to a lack of resources. We'll also keep tuition costs from rising and eliminate the interest rate so current and future student loans become easier to pay off. As well, we'll simplify OSAP and expand eligibility – making it the 'one window' people go to for help to learn at any stage of life by also integrating employment training supports.