

Dear Mayor Bonnie Crombie,

Please see the official Ontario New Democratic Party answers attached below.

### **I. 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.**

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

YES. The Ontario NDP's fully-updated and fully-costed housing platform, Homes You Can Afford, is our comprehensive plan to address the housing unaffordability crisis. It tackles the problem from multiple angles, including measures to increase supply as well as crack down on real estate speculation — all grounded in the principle that housing is a human right, not an investment commodity.

Mississauga recently joined Toronto to become the second municipality in Ontario to fully build out within its municipal boundaries, and is now exploring ways to build up instead of out. The Ontario NDP is fully supportive of municipalities that undertake this challenging work of updating their planning policies to enable intensification along transit corridors, and allow a wider range of affordable “missing middle” housing options in pedestrian-friendly complete communities, within existing residential areas. The NDP also recognizes the importance of local planning and public consultation to ensure that policies are responsive to local conditions and needs while reflecting the overall public interest (including the right to housing).

The NDP opposes the Ford government's abuse of Minister's Zoning Orders, many of which harm the public interest and ignore sustainable planning principles — including a number of recent MZOs that will force Peel and Mississauga taxpayers to pay huge costs to run infrastructure out to distant farmland for the benefit of a few

well-connected land speculators. An NDP government will repeal all MZOs that harm the public interest.

The Ontario NDP has long supported inclusionary zoning, and believes it needs to be expanded and extended to all growing neighbourhoods, instead of being subject to arbitrary limits as is currently the case. We also agree that surplus provincial land should be made available for affordable housing to the largest extent as practicable, and we would target a percentage well above 20%.

Our platform also proposes to crack down the housing speculation and financialization with a new speculation and vacancy tax, as well as improvements to the existing Non-Resident Speculation Tax. These new speculation taxes will exclude principle residences — not a penny will come from regular homeowners.

Our housing platform also proposes a massive increase in provincial support for municipal social housing and supportive housing. This includes the creation of a new public agency, Housing Ontario, to finance and build 250,000 new affordable and non-market homes over ten years, to be operated by public, non-profit and co-op housing providers. Our plan also includes funding to repair 260,000 existing social housing units, provide income supports for 311,000 tenant households, and create 60,000 new homes with supports.

Our full housing platform can be viewed here: <https://www.ontariondp.ca/housing>

## **II. Invest in Public Transit**

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

**The Milton GO line is the second busiest in the GTA. We need all-day, two-way 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. The Ontario NDP will restore the downtown Mississauga loop to the Hurontario LRT, which was suddenly removed from the LRT plans by the Ford government. The NDP will also fund the expansion of the Milton GO corridor to enable frequent, all-day two-way rail service along this crucial route.

An Ontario NDP government will also provide 50% provincial funding for municipal transit net operational costs. This dedicated, predictable and permanent funding will enable MiWay to boost

ridership and make its transit service more frequent, reliable, comfortable, convenient and affordable.

### **III. 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?**

**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?**

YES. Even before the pandemic, municipal social housing and transit services were still feeling the harmful impacts of provincial cuts and downloads years earlier. Successive Liberal and PC governments have refused to upload back transit and housing operational costs once covered by the province.

Then the pandemic hit, making an already bad situation vastly worse.

The City of Mississauga sustained service levels during the pandemic, despite collapsing fare revenues and other unforeseeable financial burdens. But this has resulted in massive budget gaps through no fault of the City.

The Ontario NDP understands that municipalities cannot, and should not, be forced to fill these pandemic-related budget gaps. If municipalities are forced to cut costs and services to fill these budget gaps, it will mean vital services like transit, homelessness prevention and housing may remain in a permanent state of crisis.

An Ontario NDP government will fill these pandemic-related budget gaps, so municipalities like Mississauga can focus on continuing to deliver these essential services.

And looking beyond the pandemic, an Ontario NDP government will restore provincial funding for municipal housing and transit, as well as other shared responsibilities like public health, childcare and long-term care — so Mississauga

can emerge stronger from the pandemic, instead of returning to the “bad old normal” of chronic underfunding by the provincial government.

The NDP will also make provincial funding for municipal infrastructure more reliable, consistent and predictable by moving away from arbitrary application-based funding programs towards more formula-based programs, so municipalities like Mississauga can make long-term plans with the confidence that the province will be there as a funding partner when the City needs it.

#### **IV. Targeted Supports for the Local Economy**

**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.**

**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?**

YES. New Democrats are committed to growing a strong and vibrant economy – and small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of local economies.

To help small and medium-sized businesses assess and adopt advanced and sustainable technologies, we'll engage in strategic government procurement from small and medium-sized businesses and ensure that our small businesses can compete with big industry for public investment and support. Our Buy Ontario program will also include a social procurement policy to support diverse vendors.

We will also launch a COVID-19 emergency business fund for Black-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs and others who have faced systemic barriers to accessing capital, such as women and people with disabilities. We'll simplify access to support programs, providing reliable help so all Ontario communities have equitable resources to succeed. We'll establish a 'single-window' entity for energy efficiency and conservation planning, program promotion and delivery and upfront financing.

To encourage training and workforce development we will work with industry, small and medium sized business and labour to assess workforce needs and develop training that leads to good jobs and meets business needs. New Democrats understand that fighting the climate crisis will require a skilled workforce. We will immediately implement a large-scale job-training program to ensure we have the skilled tradespeople and professionals needed to achieve our retrofit targets, simultaneously creating thousands of well-paying jobs. These programs will actively recruit and support communities and peoples under-represented in the trades, such as women and Black, Indigenous and people of colour.

We will also work with the federal government to extend the Digital Main Street program for three years.

Sincerely,

Dan O'Brien (he/him)

Director of Policy

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