

# 2022 PROVINCIAL ELECTION GUIDE



# WHY WE VOTE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Why do we vote? Do we see it as symbol of our freedom to choose our elected officials? Do we see it as a responsibility of being an engaged citizen? Are we passionate about a certain issue or topic and want to see representation in our governments? As a citizen and as a member of Cupe 218, we have all these reasons and more to vote in the upcoming election on June 2nd. On this day we not only choose our elected officials but also directly pick those who will be across the bargaining table from us later this year.

We sent out requests to every candidate with contact information available in every provincial riding that Cupe 218 members work in. Ajax, Durham, Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock, Oshawa, Pickering-Uxbridge and Whitby. In these requests we asked candidates to consider two things. The first was filling out a survey on issues surrounding the education sector and education workers specifically. For those who filled out the survey, you will see their unabridged, unedited responses to these questions. The second request sent for candidates consideration was the OSBCU pledge. This document lays out some of the fundamental considerations that we believe needs to take place to improve our sector. We thank those candidates who have taking the time to review and sign the candidates pledge.

Thank you for taking the time to be informed and please plan on voting before or on June 2nd.

In Solidarity,

Brendan Hill  
Political Action Representative  
Cupe 218

Candidate Pledge:

As a candidate for election to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, I commit to support publicly funded and publicly delivered education based on the following principles:

- Access to the highest quality publicly funded, publicly delivered education system for all children.
- Access to all necessary resources to allow children to attend school and succeed, inclusive of all their specific educational needs.
- A guarantee that all school facilities are maintained to the highest standards of repair and cleanliness.
- The right to safe and healthy schools.
- A guarantee that all students have access to schools within a reasonable commute from their home.
- Access to fully resourced, properly staffed library facilities in every school.
- The right to small class sizes so that parents can be assured their children will have adequate access to education supports in class.
- A comprehensive curriculum that guarantees that students have access to a diversity of learning experiences and have access to the classes they need in order to succeed in the kinds of work they choose.
- The right to safe and accepting schools.

If elected, I commit to championing public policy reform in support of the above principles. My advocacy will include the following measures, which offer the only long- term assurance of high-quality services in Ontario's publicly funded education system:

- To improve the working and learning environment of everyone in schools: increase staffing levels of all education worker positions in schools.
- To make up for a decade of real wage cuts due to legislated wage freezes and wage restraint: an end to the attack on education workers' wages and improving compensation.
- To ensure that staffing levels are maintained and service levels can be improved: increase funding to school boards.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provincial Electoral District



# MAJOR PARTY EDUCATION PLATFORMS



<https://gpo.ca/platform/connected-communities/>



<https://ontarioliberal.ca/platform/education-and-training/>



<https://www.ontariondp.ca/platform/education>



<https://budget.ontario.ca/2022/index.html>

# FIND OUT WHERE TO VOTE

To find out where and when to vote,  
registration info and more visit



<https://www.elections.on.ca/en.html>



# AJAX

## Ali Intab- Independent

No contact information

## Patrice Barnes- PC Party of Ontario

Did not respond to Survey

## Amber Bowen- Ontario Liberal Party

*Has signed the OSBCU pledge*

## Allen Hadley- Independent

No contact information

## Aaron Hopkins- Ontario Party

Did not respond to Survey

## Gary Reader- New Blue

No contact information

## Neil Runnalls- Green Party of Ontario

### **Do you believe that the public education system is adequately funded?**

No. The system is chronically underfunded, particularly in the area of Special Education. We require thousands more Special Needs Assistants, Educational Assistants and support workers to maintain our schools.

### **Do you believe that the current system and access to resources allow children to attend school and succeed?**

#### **Do you believe it is Inclusive of all their specific educational needs?**

The current system could be enhanced in many ways. Additional support staff to help students integrate into the regular program is essential. We have so many students with high needs and not enough support staff to meet the need.

### **Do you believe that current funding addresses the need that all school facilities are maintained to the highest standards of repair and cleanliness?**

Our schools have been neglected for many years by successive provincial governments. We need millions of dollars to address the backlog of school repairs. In addition, in order to provide world-class facilities for our students, additional investments need to be made to ensure that our learning spaces are inviting, dynamic and arrangement to facilitate student collaboration.

### **Where do you stand on class sizes and the diversity of learning experiences?**

Class sizes need to be reduced at the Junior/ Intermediate and Senior Levels. Students thrive in smaller group settings where teachers are able to get to know their students and promote a sense of family.

### **Do you or your party support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation eg. Bill 124? Please explain why.**

Free and fair bargaining is an essential right of all workers

## Neil Runnalls- Green Party of Ontario Continued

**Would you support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation moving forward?**

Never.

**Do you support Return to Work Legislation?**

No.

**Do you believe that current education worker compensation matches the impact Education Workers have on the success of the system?**

Support workers make a world of difference to students. They support social, emotional, physical and academic needs of our students. Oftentimes, they are the ones who ensure that students who are on the margins do not fall through the cracks. Our education workers deserve respect, particularly free and fair bargaining rights.

**Do you believe that Education Worker staffing levels are currently meeting the demands of our system?**

No, it is currently insufficient.

**Is there anything else that we should know about you that may be of interest to Education Workers?**

I am currently an elementary principal in the public education system. I see the difference that support workers make in our schools and have always advocated for more support for students!



## Christine Santos- Ontario NDP *has signed the OSBCU pledge*

### **Do you believe that the public education system is adequately funded?**

No; New Democrats will review and repair the education funding formula to ensure funding meets the needs of Ontario's students today, and into the future. And we will increase special education funding.

### **Do you believe that the current system and access to resources allow children to attend school and succeed?**

#### **Do you believe it is Inclusive of all their specific educational needs?**

An NDP government will ensure that targeted supports are provided where they are needed most. We will overhaul the existing education funding formula with a comprehensive review to be completed within one year. A new funding formula will ensure that students are equitably supported, and learning gaps are closed.

### **Do you believe that current funding addresses the need that all school facilities are maintained to the highest standards of repair and cleanliness?**

**No; New Democrats are committed to clearing the \$16.8 billion school repair backlog** within ten years. We will hire more custodians and maintenance staff and establish a province-wide standard for cleaning and school repairs. As part of our Green New Democratic Deal, we will work to upgrade all public school buildings to make them carbon neutral and climate resilient, ensuring they meet both current and future needs. We'll apply those same principles to new school buildings, ensuring they meet international energy efficiency standards.

### **Where do you stand on class sizes and the diversity of learning experiences?**

An NDP government will cap kindergarten class sizes at 26 and maintain the Teacher-ECE team, cap grades 4-8 classes at 24, and lower high school class sizes so that students can receive more attention from teachers.

## Christine Santos- Ontario NDP Continued

### **Do you or your party support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation eg. Bill 124?**

#### **Please explain why.**

Absolutely not. New Democrats are committed to a new relationship with teachers and education workers, one built on a foundation of respect and a shared commitment to a stronger public education system. We'll invite all sector stakeholders to a new education partnership table as we work to overhaul the funding formula to reflect the needs of students today. We'll bargain in good faith, and support school boards to negotiate agreements that create working and learning conditions that will help our next generation succeed.

### **Would you support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation moving forward?**

No. New Democrats are committed to bargaining in good faith.

### **Do you support Return to Work Legislation?**

No. New Democrats have continuously pushed back against previous governments who have tried to pass Return to Work Legislation.

### **Do you believe that current education worker compensation matches the impact Education Workers have on the success of the system?**

We'll restore respect and fair compensation for the people who deliver education.

### **Do you believe that Education Worker staffing levels are currently meeting the demands of our system?**

No. We plan to hire 20,000 Teachers and Education Workers and invest in in-school remedial learning programs to help students recover after two years of learning disruptions.

### **Is there anything else that we should know about you that may be of interest to Education Workers?**

The Ontario NDP has a detailed and doable plan to fix what the Liberals and Conservatives broke and invest to ensure Ontario's world-class public education system thrives. We'll ensure every student in the province gets the support, education and opportunities they need to succeed.



## Granville Anderson- Ontario Liberal Party

Did not respond to Survey

## Mini Batra- Green Party of Ontario

Did not respond to Survey

## Chris Borgia- Ontario NDP

*Has signed the OSBCU pledge*

## Lou Devuono- Ontario Party

Did not respond to Survey

## Spencer Ford- New Blue

No contact information

## Todd McCarthy- PC Party of Ontario

Did not respond to Survey



# DURHAM

## Tony Stravato- Independent

**Do you believe that the public education system is adequately funded?**

Absolutely not.

**Do you believe that the current system and access to resources allow children to attend school and succeed?**

**Do you believe it is Inclusive of all their specific educational needs?**

No, I believe the school system is in dire need of funding in the special needs department especially. I'm a father of Twin Autistic boys and know first hand the struggles our schools face. .

**Do you believe that current funding addresses the need that all school facilities are maintained to the highest standards of repair and cleanliness?**

No. Especially after the last 4 years!

**Where do you stand on class sizes and the diversity of learning experiences?**

We need smaller class sizes, children need to learn in an environment that meets their needs.

**Do you or your party support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation eg. Bill 124?  
Please explain why.**

I will fight to repeal 124

**Would you support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation moving forward?**

No!

**Do you support Return to Work Legislation?**

No!



# DURHAM

## Tony Stravato- Independent Continued

**Do you believe that current education worker compensation matches the impact Education Workers have on the success of the system?**

No, educators are overwhelmed and deserve to be Supported and compensated accordingly.

**Do you believe that Education Worker staffing levels are currently meeting the demands of our system?**

No.

**Is there anything else that we should know about you that may be of interest to Education Workers?**

As a Father of Twin boys with special needs I truly believe that Your working conditions are also my children's learning conditions, I will fight along side Education workers in solidarity!



# HALIBURTON- KAWARTHA LAKES- BROCK

## Gene Balfour- Libertarian

No contact information

## Barbara Doyle- Ontario NDP

Did not respond to Survey

## Kerstin Kelly- Ontario Party

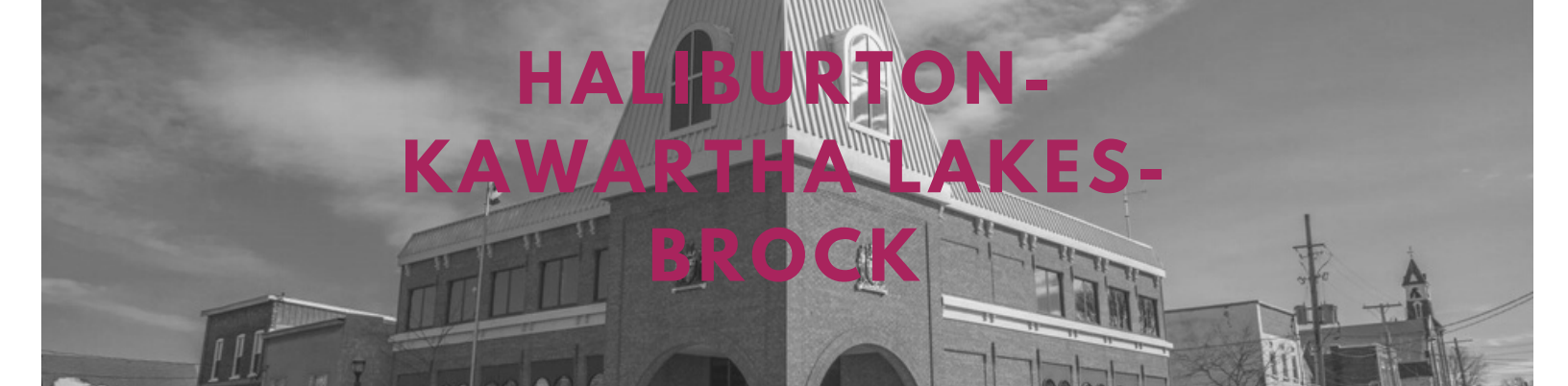
No contact information

## Ben Prentice- New Blue

No contact information

## Laurie Scott- PC Party of Ontario

Did not respond to Survey



# HALIBURTON- KAWARTHA LAKES- BROCK

## Don McBey- Ontario Liberal Party

### **Do you believe that the public education system is adequately funded?**

Not at all and it has not been, for some time. As a point of fact, just prior to the pandemic, the Ford government targeted our schools and teachers, planning to fire 10,000 teachers, increase class sizes and move more classes to online learning. The previous Liberal government had begun to invest more heavily in education before the election in 2018. Since that time funding has been drastically reduced for education at a time where we needed even more investment to get our children safely (both physically and mentally) through this health care crisis.

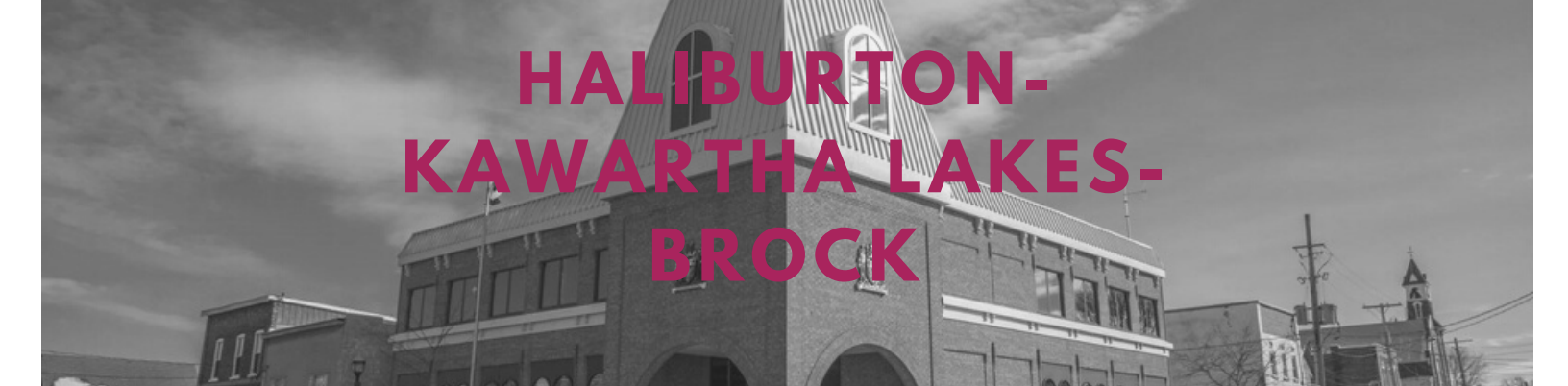
### **Do you believe that the current system and access to resources allow children to attend school and succeed?**

#### **Do you believe it is Inclusive of all their specific educational needs?**

No to both questions. The Liberal government will invest in our students. Where the Conservatives cut 1.3 Billion from Education in the last budget, Ontario Liberals will be funding new technology and devices in classrooms. We will be reducing class sizes and hiring 10,000 new teachers in order to do that. Many students have been affected by the ramifications of Covid 19 on learning, and so we are bringing back a choice for Grade 13, for students to take an extra year to reach their full education potential. Finally, we will eliminate the mandatory e-learning that poses a challenge for so many students, but also create high-quality online options for high school students. The Ontario Liberals will hire 5,000 more special education workers in order to reduce wait time for services and close learning gaps, including additional support for students with autism and reading disabilities.

### **Do you believe that current funding addresses the need that all school facilities are maintained to the highest standards of repair and cleanliness?**

No. Many schools are in poor repair. In order to keep staff and children safe, ventilations systems MUST be upgraded. There are older schools throughout this riding that do not meet today's standards for accessibility. Many were due to be leveled and new schools built under the previous Liberal government. That did not happen when the Conservatives came to power. The Liberals plan to invest 10 BILLION in education much of which will go to build 200 new schools and to repair, upgrade and rebuild 4,500 others.



# HALIBURTON- KAWARTHA LAKES- BROCK

## Don McBey- Ontario Liberal Party Continued

### **Where do you stand on class sizes and the diversity of learning experiences?**

While the Ford Conservatives try to cut education funding and raise class sizes, we'll cap class sizes at 20 students in every grade across the province – starting first with schools where this would have the biggest impact.

### **Do you or your party support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation eg. Bill 124? Please explain why.**

Ontario Liberal Leader, Steven Del Duca has repeatedly called for the repeal of Bill 124. This type of bill caps increases below the rate of inflation, leaving the employee earning less each year. It leads to career dissatisfaction, employee shortages and burnout. It is an affront to the collective bargaining process.

### **Would you support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation moving forward?**

No.

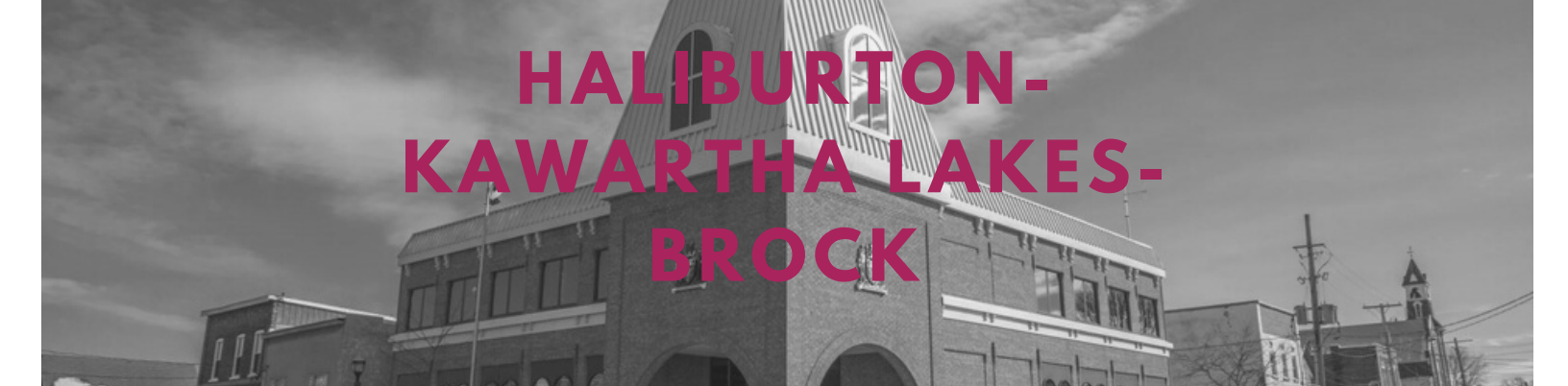
### **Do you support Return to Work Legislation?**

Generally, No.

### **Do you believe that current education worker compensation matches the impact Education Workers have on the success of the system?**

Education workers today do much more than just deliver information to their students. They manage behavioral challenges, mental health issues, exceptional students, students with difficult home situations. They are coaches, mentors, caregivers, imparters of wisdom, referees, and kind and empathetic sounding boards. What is the value of an individual who has completed 6 years of post-secondary education to work in their chosen profession? I suspect it is greater than what is currently the average salary of an Education Worker.





# HALIBURTON- KAWARTHA LAKES- BROCK

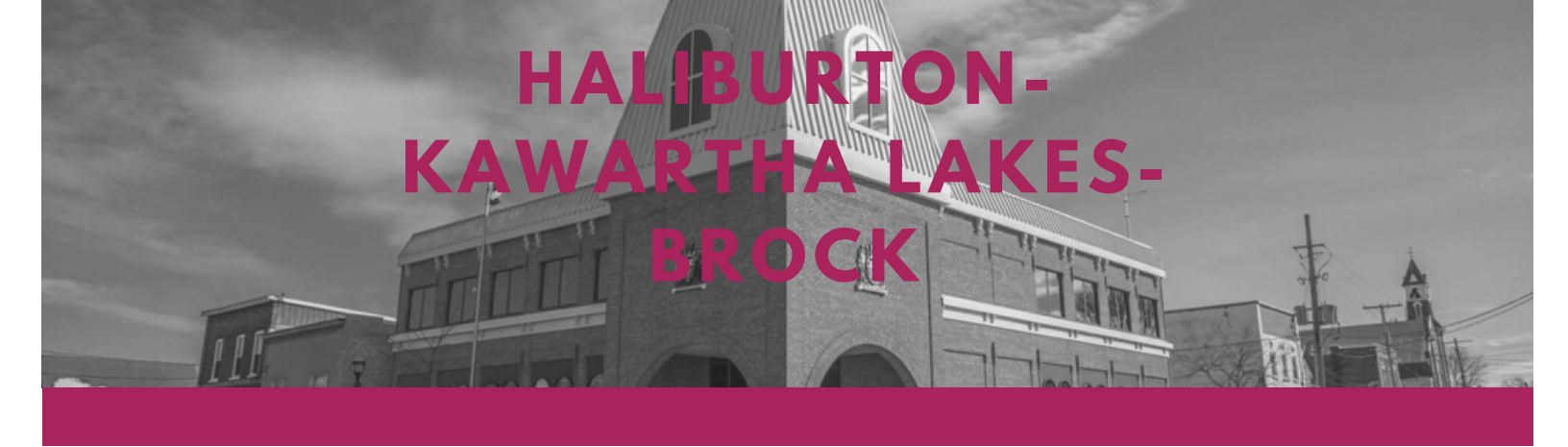
## Don McBey- Ontario Liberal Party Continued

### **Do you believe that Education Worker staffing levels are currently meeting the demands of our system?**

No. The Ontario Liberals have a plan to hire 10,000 more teachers so students can catch up on learning lost during the pandemic. They need their teachers focus and attention more than ever, so they can not just teach, but reach them. To meet our target, we will recruit teachers from other provinces, - including those whose religious freedoms are being threatened by Quebec's Bill 21. We will help qualified teachers immigrate to Ontario and attract some of the 80,000 Ontario certified teachers not currently employed by schools back to the teaching profession.

### **Is there anything else that we should know about you that may be of interest to Education Workers?**

Over these past two years, it was hard to keep learning. Our kids struggled with opening and closing classes, teachers felt disconnected with remote learning and parents were overwhelmed. Our province and our kids deserve the best education in the world, not chaos and disruption. A good education is the best tool we have to help people find success and build a stronger, more prosperous Ontario – and that's true at any age. We don't want learning to end after high school, so we'll make it easier than ever to find, afford and benefit from higher education and training – helping people learn skills that will get them hired into good, well-paying careers. Our Ontario Liberal plan supports our students and gets everyone ready for a career – be it that first great job or the next big opportunity.



# HALIBURTON- KAWARTHA LAKES- BROCK

## Tom Regina- Green Party of Ontario

**Do you believe that the public education system is adequately funded?**

No.

**Do you believe that the current system and access to resources allow children to attend school and succeed?**

**Do you believe it is Inclusive of all their specific educational needs?**

No.

**Do you believe that current funding addresses the need that all school facilities are maintained to the highest standards of repair and cleanliness?**

No.

**Where do you stand on class sizes and the diversity of learning experiences?**

I support class size caps as recommended by teachers in the field and their suggestions with regard to learning and teaching

**Do you or your party support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation eg. Bill 124? Please explain why.**

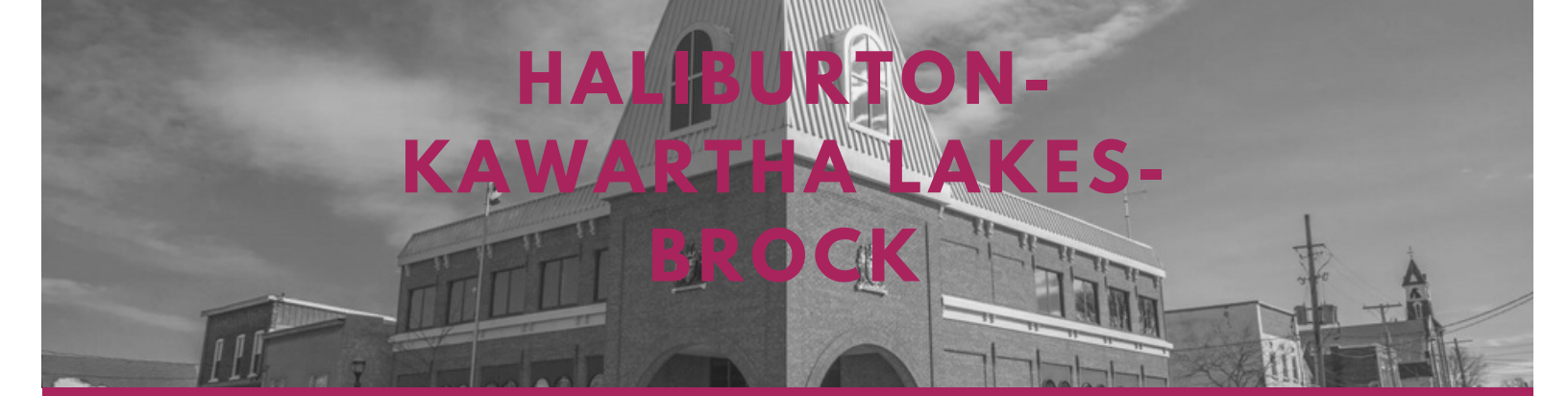
Bill 124 must be repealed because it is not appropriate to suppress the wages of workers that we call heroes; we need to take better care of them as we expect to be taken care of.

**Would you support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation moving forward?**

No.

**Do you support Return to Work Legislation?**

This question requires more specific context.



# HALIBURTON- KAWARTHA LAKES- BROCK

## Tom Regina- Green Party of Ontario Continued

**Do you believe that current education worker compensation matches the impact Education Workers have on the success of the system?**

I believe that working conditions can be much improved and are probably more important than monetary gains, which are critical as affordability becomes a greater issue.

**Do you believe that Education Worker staffing levels are currently meeting the demands of our system?**

No.

**Is there anything else that we should know about you that may be of interest to Education Workers?**

I have retired from a long career as an educator and have spent plenty of time on picket lines to improve conditions for my students, my colleagues and myself.



## Alex Down- PC Party of Ontario

Did not respond to Survey

## Katarina Dunham- Green Party of Ontario

Did not respond to Survey

## Jennifer French- Ontario NDP

*Has signed the OSBCU pledge*

## Daryl Janseen- New Blue

No contact information

## Catherine Mosca- Ontario Liberal Party

Did not respond to Survey



## Dave Forsythe- Ontario Party

**Do you believe that the public education system is adequately funded?**

More than acceptable.

**Do you believe that the current system and access to resources allow children to attend school and succeed?**

**Do you believe it is Inclusive of all their specific educational needs?**

It allows attendance, but not success.

**Do you believe that current funding addresses the need that all school facilities are maintained to the highest standards of repair and cleanliness?**

This is not the main issue.

**Where do you stand on class sizes and the diversity of learning experiences?**

This is not the main issue.

**Do you or your party support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation eg. Bill 124?  
Please explain why.**

I don't support any group trying to use government to monopolise the market.

**Would you support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation moving forward?**

I don't support any group trying to use government to monopolise the market.

**Do you support Return to Work Legislation?**

I don't support government interference in educational institutions.



## Dave Forsythe- Ontario Party Continued

**Do you believe that current education worker compensation matches the impact Education Workers have on the success of the system?**

I don't support government interference in educational institutions.

**Do you believe that Education Worker staffing levels are currently meeting the demands of our system?**

It seems the current educational system is doing a fine job at achieving its intended goal.

**Is there anything else that we should know about you that may be of interest to Education Workers?**

I believe that family is the foundational building block of society, not the civil government. Therefore, education belongs first in the hands of parents, to train their children according to their own family values, before it's delegated to anyone else. Teachers would do well to remember that.



# PICKERING/UXBRIDGE

## Khalid Ahmed- Ontario NDP

Did not respond to Survey

## Peter Bethlenfalvy- PC Party of Ontario

Did not respond to Survey

## Abir Dabbour- Independent

No contact information

## Ibrahim Daniyal- Ontario Liberal Party

Did not respond to Survey

## Netalia Duboisky- Ontario Moderate Party

No contact information

## Lisa Robinson- Ontario Party

Did not respond to Survey

## Hasan Syed- CPO

No contact information

## Elizabeth Tallis- New Blue

No contact information



# PICKERING/UXBRIDGE

## Julia Rondinone- Green Party of Ontario

**Do you believe that the public education system is adequately funded?**

No.

**Do you believe that the current system and access to resources allow children to attend school and succeed?**

**Do you believe it is Inclusive of all their specific educational needs?**

No I do not believe that the current system is working to benefit the success of children in education.

We need to harder to to ensure that children of all educational needs are treated in an equitable way. Having an inclusive system is integral to enabling success and proper education for children.

**Do you believe that current funding addresses the need that all school facilities are maintained to the highest standards of repair and cleanliness?**

I do not think that current funding allows schools to be kept to the highest standards for repair and cleanliness. Being part of the youth generation myself, I know from recent experience that the education sector needs a large increase in funding to make sure children and students learn in the best possible environments.

**Where do you stand on class sizes and the diversity of learning experiences?**

I believe that the diversity of learning experiences is so important in giving children the ability to hear from alternate perspectives. Class sizes should not increase from what they are now as children need to have the ability to work one on one with their teachers for proper engagement.

**Do you or your party support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation eg. Bill 124?  
Please explain why.**

No, I thoroughly disagree with Bill 124 which aims to freeze the wages for essential workers that deserve to be compensated for their hard work and dedication to society. The Green Party of Ontario will ensure that this Bill is repealed.





# PICKERING/UXBRIDGE

## Julia Rondinone- Green Party of Ontario Continued

**Would you support wage restraint or wage freeze legislation moving forward?**

No.

**Do you support Return to Work Legislation?**

Yes

**Do you believe that current education worker compensation matches the impact Education Workers have on the success of the system?**

No I do not believe that current education worker compensation matched the impact Education Workers have on the success of the system. These workers deserve more for the hard work that they do.

**Do you believe that Education Worker staffing levels are currently meeting the demands of our system?**

No, I feel as though the demands of our system are far greater than the Education Worker staffing levels. Staffing levels should be increased.

**Is there anything else that we should know about you that may be of interest to Education Workers?**

I support the proper compensation of education workers within my riding and beyond. I will work towards changing the current system to benefit both the children and education workers who have been affected by these ongoing problems from other governments.



## Lorne Coe- PC Party of Ontario

Did not respond to Survey

## Emil Labaj- Ontario Party

Did not respond to Survey

## Sara Labelle- Ontario NDP

Did not respond to Survey

## Trystan Lackner- New Blue

No contact information

## Stephanie Leblanc- Green Party of Ontario

Did not respond to Survey

## Aadil Mohammed- Ontario Liberal Party

Did not respond to Survey

## Christopher Rinella- Independent

No contact information

## Douglas Thom- Freedom Party of Ontario

No contact information