

## NDP RESPONSE TO ONTARIO CLIMATE EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

1. Set binding climate targets based on science and justice consistent with global efforts to limit planetary warming to 1.5C. Set binding greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets relative to 2005 levels of 30% by 2025; 60% by 2030; and 100% by 2040. Establish rolling 5-year carbon budgets that decline over time towards zero emissions by 2040 or sooner. Review and update targets regularly as climate science evolves. Track and report progress on these actions every year.

In 2021, the Ontario NDP released its *Green New Democratic Deal*. This bold, comprehensive and achievable plan will see large-scale retrofits to bring our building sector to net zero, electrification of transportation, the reinstatement of cap and trade, and the use of provincial purchasing power to change our energy system. We expect this to create millions of well-paying jobs and protections for all Ontario workers. Our commitment is to reduce emissions by at least 50% by 2030 and to achieve net-zero no later than 2050, in line with the most ambitious targets set under the Paris Climate Accords, aimed at limiting the rise in global temperature to 1.5C. We will institute a carbon budgeting system for the province with a reinstated Environmental Commissioner auditing the project on a yearly basis. The plan is based on the principle of a *just transition* – where nobody, and no community, will be left behind. The plan can be found at <https://www.ontariondp.ca/news/ndp-releases-ontario-s-boldest-ever-climate-plan>

2. Prioritize and respect Indigenous sovereignty and autonomy. Build a new relationship between the Province of Ontario and Indigenous peoples premised on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Recognize and respect Indigenous peoples' jurisdiction and right to free, prior, and informed consent within their territories. Collaborate in true partnership with Indigenous peoples on shared climate priorities, recognizing that spiritual value of the land is reflected in Indigenous culture with a commitment to respecting Mother Earth.

In 2019, NDP MPP Sol Mamakwa tabled Bill 76, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which would ensure that Ontario's laws are consistent with UNDRIP.

3. Invest in a thriving, regenerative, zero emissions economy. Invest 2% of Ontario's GDP to advance the zero emissions, decarbonized, renewable economy and create many thousands of decent, secure, sustainable jobs across multiple sectors. Create new economic and public institutions, diverting monies from destructive fossil fuels, and spend what it takes to immediately reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Do so recognizing that the cost of inaction will massively outweigh the cost of immediate urgent climate action. Regulate and support governmental holdings to rapidly divest from fossil fuel exposure, and businesses to decarbonize while promoting green manufacturing.

Under our *Green New Democratic Deal*, an Ontario NDP government will invest \$40 billion within its first term towards initiatives like improved transit, investments in retrofits and infrastructure, job training and placement and support for communities adversely affected by climate change. This is in addition to existing investments. The plan can be found at <https://www.ontariondp.ca/news/ndp-releases-ontario-s-boldest-ever-climate-plan>

4. End all fossil fuel subsidies immediately and rapidly wind down all fossil fuel use. Phase out gas-fired electricity by 2030. Redirect funding to energy efficiency and fully renewable low carbon energy sources. End all fossil fuel subsidies, tax and financial incentives immediately. Ensure that all high emitting industries and sectors that create or profit from fossil fuel pollution pay their fair share of the costs of the resulting climate damage. Place an immediate moratorium on any further investment in nuclear energy to invest instead in new renewable energy.

Our *Green New Democratic Deal* includes a plan to help Ontarians transition away from fossil fuels towards zero-emission sources of energy like hydroelectric, wind and solar. This includes a plan to phase down gas-fired electricity to bring the electricity sector to net-zero emissions by 2030. The plan can be found at <https://www.ontariondp.ca/news/ndp-releases-ontario-s-boldest-ever-climate-plan>

5. Prioritize public health as the climate crisis is our single greatest health crisis. Recognize that climate change is the single greatest health threat of this century and taking climate action is our greatest health opportunity. Invest in sustainable, equitable, and accessible healthcare. Incorporate Health in All Policies, One Health tenets, and Wellbeing Economy indicators into all future policy decisions, moving beyond economic evaluations and GDP-based measures.

The NDP is committed to a health-in-all-policies perspective and believes in the social and environmental determinants of health. We will put a health lens in all our policies to focus on health promotion and disease prevention through the climate crisis. We will create more interdisciplinary teams of care and establish stronger inter-ministry collaboration to promote better health outcomes. We will also implement more transparency and accountability in every part of our health care system to make sure we are able to follow the money and assure Ontarians their government is making investments in healthy and sustainable communities.

6. Accelerate the transition to zero emission buildings. Establish and implement stringent net-zero emissions building codes on all new builds by 2025 including elimination of fossil fuel based heating, while incentivizing deep retrofits for existing buildings to achieve net-zero emissions and inclusive affordable housing with low energy costs. Ban new gas connections by the end of 2023. Create a Crown Corporation to mobilize the workforce for the sustainable employment opportunities that will be generated.

Our *Green New Democratic Deal* proposes an ambitious building retrofit program, with the goal of retrofitting at least five per cent of Ontario buildings per year, and cutting emissions from the building sector by 50% by 2030. Buildings in the broader public sector will be retrofitted to achieve net-zero by 2030, and privately-owned buildings in the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional sector will be retrofitted to achieve net-zero by 2050. By investing in retrofits, between 2022 and 2030 Ontario could see more than \$15.2 billion added to our annual GDP, which should create about 100,000 good jobs. The GNDD also proposes stronger energy efficiency standards for new buildings under the Building Code, such that all newly-built public, residential and commercial buildings shall be net-zero by 2030. The plan can be found at <https://www.ontariondp.ca/news/ndp-releases-ontario-s-boldest-ever-climate-plan>

7. Accelerate the transition to zero emissions transportation and ensure ongoing sustainable community development. Invest in affordable, accessible, and convenient zero-emissions public transit connecting and interconnecting communities, including northern communities. Reallocate infrastructure funds from unnecessary highway expansion including cancellation of Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass to sustainable public transit and active transportation. Mandate all new vehicle sales to be zero emissions by 2030. Prevent urban sprawl through sustainable urban development and intensification, while promoting healthy walkable, cycling-friendly communities with ample green infrastructure.

Our *Green New Democratic Deal* includes an ambitious plan to decarbonize the transportation sector, with investments in public transit and zero emission vehicles, and the cancellation of the costly and unnecessary Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass. This includes new provincial funding to cover 50% of the net operational costs of municipal transit, allowing local transit agencies to improve service and boost ridership. An NDP government will restore rebates for zero-emission vehicle purchases, and set a province-wide ZEV sales target of 15% by 2025, 45% by 2030, and 100% by 2035. An NDP government will also encourage active transportation, with new laws to protect vulnerable road users. The plan can be found at <https://www.ontariondp.ca/news/ndp-releases-ontario-s-boldest-ever-climate-plan>

Investigative reports have revealed that the main beneficiaries of Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass are well-connected developers who are also friends and donors of Doug Ford and the PC Party. These gifts to political insiders will cost taxpayers over \$10 billion, while destroying the Greenbelt and prime farmland — and will only result in more traffic congestion over the long-term, not less. Public infrastructure should serve the public interest, not Doug Ford's developer buddies. An NDP government will cancel these unnecessary and costly highways, and instead use the billions saved for healthcare, education and public transit.

It's not just highways where Doug Ford has put his thumb on the planning scale. The Ford government has upended the land use planning system with politically-driven Minister's Zoning Orders benefitting his buddies, and a new growth plan that forces municipalities to sacrifice even more precious farmland to costly and unsustainable sprawl. An NDP government will

prioritize the development of walkable and transit-friendly complete communities within existing urban boundaries, and protect Ontario's remaining farmland from being lost forever to unaffordable sprawl.

8. Urgently protect natural biodiversity. Support and invest in Indigenous-led conservation initiatives. Restore natural ecosystems functions, preserve biodiversity, and increase carbon sequestration, including important carbon sinks such as the Greenbelt, the boreal forests of northern Ontario, and the James Bay lowlands, thereby improving human and ecosystem resilience to climate impacts. Protection must include at least 30% by 2030 of forests, wetlands, greenspaces and fresh water including our Great Lakes and other sources of drinking water. Restore powers and funding to Conservation Authorities.

Ontarians are proud of our province's vast forests, pristine farmland and abundant freshwater. But these resources are increasingly at risk. In the last 100 years, the province has lost 73 per cent of its natural habitats, including forests, fields, wetlands and marshes. An NDP government will work with Indigenous peoples and the federal government, as well as community, business and environmental stakeholders, to meet Canada's 2030 target of 30% protection.

9. Invest in local, organic, regenerative agriculture and food systems. Incentivize carbon storage in soil, restore biodiversity, and ensure food sovereignty and food security across the province. Increase consumption of plant-based, locally-sourced foods and implement reductions in food waste. Support farmers in shifting industrial animal-based operations to more regenerative plant-based agriculture. Support Indigenous communities wishing to maintain traditional food systems and enhance their food security.

An Ontario NDP government will work with farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and rural Ontarians to strengthen food security and protect farmland, soil, water and natural heritage from land speculation, unsustainable urban development and other threats. We'll develop programs that will allow farmers to earn income by capturing carbon in soil and fighting climate change.

10. Institute a broad public education campaign, as we all have the right to know what's at stake. Tell the truth about the climate and biodiversity crises and their critical impacts on human survival, in order to educate and mobilize broad community-based and societal action. Recognize climate change as the single greatest threat to human health of our time. Highlight the multiple co-benefits and massive opportunities that will result from taking climate action, including health and economic benefits, as well as employment opportunities.

The NDP supports public education efforts to raise awareness about the climate crisis and the clear benefits of taking decisive action.

11. Reinstate an independent office of the Environmental Commissioner. Empower and adequately fund the Environmental Commissioner on an ongoing basis to independently oversee the implementation of the essential environmental actions to be taken.

The independent office of the Environmental Commissioner was first created by the Ontario NDP government in 1993. An Ontario NDP government will restore this office, ensuring independent oversight over Ontario's policies to protect the environment, promote energy efficiency and fight climate change.

12. Leave no one behind. As we make the massive and urgent transformations critically needed to secure our shared future, ensure a just transition for Indigenous, resource-dependent, remote, and marginalized communities, low income families, fossil fuel workers, and all others disproportionately affected by the necessary shift to a low carbon economy. Prepare our communities for the impacts of the climate crisis to minimize human suffering and infrastructure damage. Address environmental racism and intergenerational justice by supporting those most vulnerable to climate change impacts including future generations. Recognize that our only way forward is to act together urgently, collectively, massively to safeguard the present and secure the future for ourselves, our children, and for generations yet to come.

*A Just Transition* is the core principle of the Ontario NDP's *Green New Democratic Deal*. The transition to a net-zero economy must be equitable and just. Everyone deserves to share in the opportunity and prosperity it brings. Black, Indigenous, and people of colour have suffered the most and benefited the least from the conditions that have led to the climate crisis. An NDP Government will work to address the root causes of this inequity, including environmental racism. We will use an environmental justice lens for all programs and policies we deliver, ensuring that nobody, and no community, will be left behind. The plan can be found at <https://www.ontariondp.ca/news/ndp-releases-ontario-s-boldest-ever-climate-plan>