

Questions and Answers

Durham Region Provincial Ridings

Durham Regional Chair Gerri Lynn O'Connor sent a series of questions on issues of regional importance to all of the candidates running locally in the upcoming provincial election. Responses will be posted as they are received.

Note that this document is divided alphabetically by riding, with the responses to each question listed alphabetically by political party.

Riding	Party	Name
Ajax	Liberal Candidate – in office	Joe Dickson
Ajax	NDP Candidate	Monique Hughes
Ajax	Green Party of Ontario	Stephen Leahy
Ajax	Conservative Candidate	Rod Phillips
Durham	Liberal Candidate – in office	Granville Anderson
Durham	Green Party of Ontario	Michelle Corbett
Durham	Conservative Candidate	Lindsey Park
Durham	NDP Candidate	Joel Usher
Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock	Liberal Candidate	Brooklynne Cramp-Waldinsperger
Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock	NDP Candidate	Zac Miller
Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock	Conservative Candidate – in office	Laurie Scott
Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock	Green Party of Ontario	Lynn Therien
Oshawa	Conservative Candidate	Bob Chapman
Oshawa	Green Party of Ontario	Deborah Ellis
Oshawa	NDP Candidate – in office	Jennifer French
Oshawa	Liberal Candidate	Makini Smith
Pickering/Uxbridge	Conservative Candidate	Peter Bethlenfalvy
Pickering/Uxbridge	NDP Candidate	Nerissa Carino
Pickering/Uxbridge	Liberal Candidate	Ibrahim Daniyal
Pickering/Uxbridge	Green Party Candidate	Adam Narraway

Riding	Party	Name
Whitby	Conservative – in office	Lorne Coe
Whitby	Green Party of Ontario	Stacey Leadbetter
Whitby	NDP Candidate	Niki Lundquist
Whitby	Liberal Candidate	Leisa Washington

Descriptions of Ridings:

Ajax Riding Boundaries:

Consisting of that part of the Regional Municipality of Durham comprised of the Town of Ajax.

Economy

1. How do you propose to work with Durham Region to create jobs, drive growth, foster innovation, and attract trade and investment to the region?

Monique Hughes – NDP Party:

One-size-fits-all does not work for Ontario municipalities. We will develop policies that respond to the unique needs and challenges of small communities, while also empowering larger towns and cities.

The NDP understands that what helps business and economic development the most are healthy people who are able to work. Drug and dental benefits will help people to stay at work. These benefits will be portable so they will also support innovation and the growth of small businesses because no one will lose these benefits when they decide to take the risk that is necessary to start a small business. In providing affordable childcare, young families will have money to reinvest in their communities instead of barely making ends meet; and both parents will be able to participate in the workforce.

Reducing the cost of hydro is critical for businesses. The NDP will reduce hydro bills by 30%.

In addition to these basic necessities for a healthy economy, the NDP will:

- Expand auto and manufacturing jobs in Ontario, and stream this with the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to promote manufacturing, research and development.
- Invest \$75 million for the Jobs and Prosperity Fund that will create opportunities in the trades.
- Work with the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council to create a “single window” for automotive and manufacturing investment.
- Champion Ontario as trade deals are renegotiated, and stand up for workers throughout automotive and manufacturing supply chains.
- Overhaul the province’s support for small and medium businesses. This will include targeting Ontario small businesses in government purchasing practices.
- Implement an economic cluster strategy that will include skills development, innovation targets, regional and export growth and will coordinate with local educational institutions.
- Strike an advisory panel on the innovative economy that will be made up of business leaders, experts and workers to guide expansion of Ontario’s innovative economy.
- Establish a new \$50-million fund over the next five years out of the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to match TV and film industry investment in new studio space, and we will work with municipal governments to streamline zoning for new and expanded TV and film production facilities. We will maintain stable, predictable

and competitive tax credits to bring productions to Ontario and keep those jobs here.

- Create 27,000 new placements for young people, and double Ontario's Kick-Start program so that Ontario's colleges and universities can create new work-integrated learning opportunities.

2. What solutions will you offer to support the economic viability of municipalities within the Greenbelt?

Environment and Energy

3. What role do conservation, retrofits, renewable energy, electric vehicles and nuclear energy production play in your plan to ensure that communities are prepared for, protected from, and supported in managing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events? How will it be funded?

Monique Hughes – NDP Party:

An NDP government is committed to protecting agricultural land and green spaces, and to requiring watershed planning across the province. We will encourage more efficient use of existing employment lands and increased intensification for housing to both decrease urban sprawl and increase the availability of affordable housing.

I will work as a member of the new NDP government to reopen the decision that excluded the Headwaters of Carruthers Creek from the protection of the Greenbelt.

The NDP has long been a strong voice for both environmental sustainability and fairness. We believe the transition to a green, low-carbon economy must be a fair one, so we don't leave communities behind, and so all of us can realize the benefits. Renewables such as solar, water, and wind will be at the heart of the electricity system and we will integrate them responsibly as needs grow. We will respect local decision-making and ensure that local communities have a stake in the benefits that come from low-cost, zero-emission renewables.

The NDP believes polluters should pay for the emissions they release, and we will continue with pricing carbon through a fair, effective and transparent cap-and-trade market.

We will:

- Set clear greenhouse gas reduction targets that we can and will meet.
- Ensure 25% of cap-and-trade revenues will go to support lower-income, rural, and northern households, and trade-exposed industries.
- Introduce a new \$50 million no-interest and on-bill home retrofit program to help people consume less power at home.
- Update the Environmental Bill of Rights

The Ontario NDP would ensure that the Darlington and Bruce refurbishments are subject to an evidence-based cost/benefit/risk analysis and ongoing oversight, to avoid cost overruns and other risks, and to ensure they would deliver low-cost electricity in the long-term public interest.

4. What is your party's position on the potential new build at the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station?

Infrastructure

5. Does your party support a federal decision to proceed with the development of an airport on the Pickering airport lands?

Monique Hughes – NDP Party:

An NDP government will undo the damage caused by decades of disrespect and downloading by Liberal and Conservative governments. We will invest \$180 billion dollars in infrastructure development. We will:

- Stop and reverse the downloading of provincial expenses and responsibilities to local governments – this means fairly sharing responsibility for transit, housing and childcare costs.
- Restore 50-50 provincial funding for municipal transit operations.
- Fund the Province's one-third share of the costs of municipal social housing capital repairs.
- Replace the OMB with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) is a step in the right direction. An NDP government will ensure that the LPAT lives up to its mandate to ensure local communities and local planners are respected and supported when they invest time and resources getting support for updated land use plans and policies.
- Restore funding for the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund.
- Let municipalities opt out of some municipal planning requirements and require coordinated planning of retail and housing in medium density developments.
- We will spend \$1 billion to bring broadband service to rural and northern Ontario.

People should be able to count on transit in their communities. That means taking concrete steps to ensure buses, trains and streetcars run on time, that people won't be packed in or stuck at the stop because the bus is full, and that people can afford to use transit.

We will:

- End the wasteful practice of the federal and provincial governments developing parallel and often uncoordinated rail services.
- Direct Metrolinx to begin multilateral discussions with the federal government and local transit authorities focused on co-ordinating GO train and VIA Rail service with urban transit. That means fare integration, coordinated scheduling, joint funding, and the possibility of shared rolling stock.
- Require cities and municipalities to develop active transportation plans by 2021 that meet the needs and realities of their communities.

On May 31, after listening to the concerns of people in Durham Region, Andrea Horvath announced in Bowmanville that an NDP government would remove the toll on Highway 412, and would not implement a toll on the 418.

6. What is your party's plan to ensure a predictable, formula-based approach and new revenue tools to help municipalities deliver infrastructure over the long term.
7. Does your party support completion of the GO Rail East Extension to Bowmanville by fall of 2024?
8. What is your party's plan to address the safety and severe congestion issues at the Harmony/Bloor 401 interchange in Oshawa?

Social Issues

9. What is your party's commitment to support the seven priority neighbourhoods identified in the Durham Region Healthy Neighbourhoods Project to support strong, safe, equitable communities that improve the health and well-being of all residents?

Monique Hughes – NDP Party:

One of the seven priority neighborhoods in Durham Region is in central Ajax. These priority neighborhoods consist of 15% of Durham Region's population, and most astoundingly host 41% of the schools in the Region with high dental decay; 34% of children under six years of age who live in low-income households; and 45% of children who are not ready to start school, compared to 29% in Durham Region as a whole.

Economic challenges are one of the broader determinants of health that can compromise children and families through generations if they are not addressed. A healthy economy in Durham Region that enables people to work; and a transit system that allows them to travel to work are as important as any other intervention.

The people in these neighborhoods will benefit most from:

- Drug and dental coverage for all Ontarians.
- Affordable childcare on a sliding scale that means the people with the least money will pay the least.
- Reductions in electricity costs by cutting hydro bills by 30%.
- Increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00/hour; although we recognize that this is only a step in the right direction when we know that the living wage in Durham Region for a family with 2 children is \$17.00/hour.

We will also work with partners across Ontario to promote greater health equity. We will invest \$30 million in community care, and open 35 new Community Health Centres across Ontario by 2025; and we will make our hospitals work better. These things are all important to provide necessary primary care for people with a higher incidence of personal risk factors, cardiovascular illnesses, hepatitis C and emergency department visits.

The NDP has a comprehensive platform to make changes for the better in Durham Region. We look forward to working with you to make a strong and healthy Ontario together, once again.

Durham Riding Boundaries:

Consisting of that part of the Regional Municipality of Durham comprised of:

- a) That part of the City of Oshawa lying northerly of Taunton Road West and Taunton Road East;
- b) The Township of Scugog; and
- c) That part of the Corporation of the Municipality of Clarington lying westerly of a line described as follow: commencing at the intersection of the southerly limit of said municipality with the production of Cobbledick Road; thence northerly along said production and Cobbledick Road to Highway #401; thence westerly along said highway to the production of Darlington-Clarke Townline (Regional Road #42); thence northerly along said production, Darlington-Clarke Townline and its intermittent production to Concession Road #10; thence generally westerly along said road to Regional Road #20; thence generally northerly along said road to Darlington-Manvers Townline; thence generally northerly along said townline to the northerly limit of said municipality.

Economy

1. How do you propose to work with Durham Region to create jobs, drive growth, foster innovation, and attract trade and investment to the region?

Michelle Corbett – Ontario Green Party:

The Green Party of Ontario would work with Durham Region to create sustainable, Cleantech jobs that would foster innovation. Investing in the clean economy is essential to remain competitive and to create a vibrant green middle class.

It's a win-win situation. For example, a Green Building Program ensures investments in conservation will put money in your pocket and increase the value of your home. Clean-tech innovation and manufacturing in energy projects, construction and trades are currently worth \$3 trillion and is expected to double in the next decade. These technologies are changing the world -- and providing hundreds of thousands of skilled and professional jobs

2. What solutions will you offer to support the economic viability of municipalities within the Greenbelt?

Environment and Energy

3. What role do conservation, retrofits, renewable energy, electric vehicles and nuclear energy production play in your plan to ensure that communities are prepared for, protected from, and supported in managing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events? How will it be funded?

Michelle Corbett – Ontario Green Party:

- Conduct province-wide risk assessment on extreme weather event impacts including flooding, tornados, heat waves and ice storms.
- Fund municipal efforts to proactively manage green infrastructure as assets through research and sharing of best practices.
- Conduct province-wide risk assessment on extreme weather event impacts including flooding, tornados, heat waves and ice storms.
- Create a dedicated fund for Ontario municipalities to be used exclusively toward investments in municipal infrastructure.
- Provide new funding for MARS (Municipal Adaptation & Resiliency Service) available for all cities of the Great Lakes and St Lawrence Basin.
- Host a yearly summit on municipal adaptation best practices with neighboring states and provinces.
- Develop a one-window central repository for climate data including localized climate projections and provincially adopted future climate data sets.

4. What is your party's position on the potential new build at the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station?

Michelle Corbett – Ontario Green Party:

The Green Party would move for the stoppage of this new build. The Province of Ontario can be better served by buying power from Quebec at a quarter of the cost. We need to divest from nuclear energy. Decommissioning at Pickering and at the end of Darlington's current license would actually create more jobs over a longer period of time than doing any rebuilds, renovating or rebuilding.

Infrastructure

5. Does your party support a federal decision to proceed with the development of an airport on the Pickering airport lands?

Michelle Corbett – Ontario Green Party:

The lands on which this proposed airport is to be built are some of the best farm lands in the Region. We must make sure our food and water are secure. That is more important than an airport.

6. What is your party's plan to ensure a predictable, formula-based approach and new revenue tools to help municipalities deliver infrastructure over the long term.

Michelle Corbett – Ontario Green Party:

- Create a dedicated funding stream for green infrastructure within existing infrastructure funding.
- Phase out funding for infrastructure that relies on fossil fuels and increases Ontario's GHG emissions.
- Provide new carbon-free educational grants for students that want.

7. Does your party support completion of the GO Rail East Extension to Bowmanville by fall of 2024?

Michelle Corbett – Ontario Green Party:

Yes

8. What is your party's plan to address the safety and severe congestion issues at the Harmony/Bloor 401 interchange in Oshawa?

Michelle Corbett – Ontario Green Party:

The Green Party is committed to reducing traffic congestion and would examine the creation of another exit or redesign of the existing exit to reduce the congestion and keep traffic moving.

Social Issues

9. What is your party's commitment to support the seven priority neighbourhoods identified in the Durham Region Healthy Neighbourhoods Project to support strong, safe, equitable communities that improve the health and well-being of all residents?

Michelle Corbett – Ontario Green Party:

- Housing:
 - Update zoning laws to allow alternatives to single-family detached homes, such as tiny homes, secondary suites, and laneway housing.
 - Incentivize municipalities to zone for the missing middle: a combination of mixed-use buildings and medium density housing types and rental units that increase residential densities while largely maintaining the look and feel of a neighbourhood.
 - Improve Ontario's inclusionary zoning legislation to ensure the permanent creation of rental and deeply affordable units, mandating that developers include at least 1 new unit of affordable housing for every 5 new houses or condos (20% affordability minimum for new development), including purpose-built rentals.
 - Remove requirements that municipal governments pay a percentage of the cost of affordable housing under inclusionary zoning laws in line with international best practices.
 - Create more affordable, safe rental housing options by working with municipalities to modernize by-laws that currently prohibit or establish unreasonable barriers to creating additional housing, such as licensed basement apartments.

- Health and Welfare, addressing Poverty:
 - Expand the number of and access to Nurse Practitioner led clinics in all parts of the province.
 - Increase funding for Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) that are struggling to fulfill their downloaded mandate from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and provide dedicated funds that ensure enhanced collaboration with various partners, including District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), to enhance the integration and delivery of public services.
 - Immediately increase Ontario Disability Support Payment and Ontario Works payments toward rates that match the low income measure to address the inadequacy of current social programs.
 - Extend health benefits (e.g. Assistive Devices Program, Medical Transportation) to cover low income Ontarians outside of the social assistance system. We also support moving towards universal dental care and pharmacare.

- Increase asset limits for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Payment recipients, with the amount to be indexed to inflation.
 - Modernize the eligibility requirements for Ontario Works to further empower recipients to find and maintain meaningful work. End the claw back of employment earnings that create a disincentive to work.
 - Ensure that social assistance programs are responsive to the needs of people with mental health and addictions-related disabilities through ensuring eligibility criteria recognizes their illness and that payments are not interrupted during times of transition (e.g. hospitalization, incarceration).
 - Increase the personal income tax exemption for low income individuals.
 - Increase the existing Ontario Child Benefit to help families who live in poverty.
- Education:
 - Address the current \$612 per pupil funding gap between elementary and secondary students.
 - Help deliver front-line children's services by increasing funding for school counsellors, specialist teachers, psychologists, behavioural counsellors, social workers, librarians, speech language pathologists and educational assistants so that students have greater access to services and shorter wait times.
 - Establish a comprehensive evidence-based review of the education funding formula every five years to determine its effectiveness in supporting high quality public education.
 - Stop closing local schools until clear guidelines are developed on when a school should close its doors. A school should be exempt from closure if it can demonstrate that it meets a minimum viability threshold—we propose that a school with over 60% enrolment that is not in disrepair should be exempt from closure.
 - Ensure equitable educational access, experiences, and opportunities for all students, and equity in staff employment, transfer, and promotion.
 - Support and enable students, families, teachers and communities to play a role in building a culture of equity at school.
 - Provide professional learning on equity, anti-racism, and Indigenous issues, including the history of Residential Schools, Treaties, and Indigenous peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada.
 - Require school boards to collect race-based data, which will enhance the incorporation of race equity elements during the development of all education programs.
 - Expand the Urban and Priority High Schools program (UPHS), which provides additional funding to high schools in urban low socioeconomic status communities.
 - Conduct an independent, external review of the statistical model used for funding special education, to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting actual student needs.
 - Increase support for special education funding to school boards to address the challenge of meeting the needs of children with learning exceptionalities and mental health issues.

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock Riding Boundaries:

Consisting of:

- a) The County of Haliburton;
- b) That part of the County of Peterborough comprised of the Township of Cavan-Monaghan;
- c) The City of Kawartha Lakes; and
- d) That part of the Regional Municipality of Durham comprised of the Township of Brock.

Economy

1. How do you propose to work with Durham Region to create jobs, drive growth, foster innovation, and attract trade and investment to the region?

Lynn Therien – Ontario Green Party:

The Green Party of Ontario would work with Durham Region to create sustainable, Cleantech jobs that would foster innovation. Investing in the clean economy is essential to remain competitive and to create a vibrant green middle class.

It's a win-win situation. For example, a Green Building Program ensures investments in conservation will put money in your pocket and increase the value of your home. Clean-tech innovation and manufacturing in energy projects, construction and trades are currently worth \$3 trillion and is expected to double in the next decade. These technologies are changing the world -- and providing hundreds of thousands of skilled and professional jobs

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Social Issues

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Lynn Therien – Ontario Green Party:

The Green Party of Ontario is all about creating fair, equitable, healthy and sustainable neighbourhoods.

- Housing:
 - Update zoning laws to allow alternatives to single-family detached homes, such as tiny homes, secondary suites, and laneway housing.
 - Incentivize municipalities to zone for the missing middle: a combination of mixed-use buildings and medium density housing types and rental units that increase residential densities while largely maintaining the look and feel of a neighbourhood.
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- Health and Welfare, addressing Poverty:
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 - Increase funding for Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) that are struggling to fulfill their downloaded mandate from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and provide dedicated funds that ensure enhanced collaboration with various partners, including District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), to enhance the integration and delivery of public services.
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Oshawa Riding Boundaries:

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- Ensure that social assistance programs are responsive to the needs of people with mental health and addictions-related disabilities through ensuring eligibility criteria recognizes their illness and that payments are not interrupted during times of transition (e.g. hospitalization, incarceration).
- Increase the personal income tax exemption for low income individuals.
- Increase the existing Ontario Child Benefit to help families who live in poverty.
- Education:
 - Address the current \$612 per pupil funding gap between elementary and secondary students.
 - Help deliver front-line children’s services by increasing funding for school counsellors, specialist teachers, psychologists, behavioural counsellors, social workers, librarians, speech language pathologists and educational assistants so that students have greater access to services and shorter wait times.
 - Establish a comprehensive evidence-based review of the education funding formula every five years to determine its effectiveness in supporting high quality public education.
 - Stop closing local schools until clear guidelines are developed on when a school should close its doors. A school should be exempt from closure if it can demonstrate that it meets a minimum viability threshold—we propose that a school with over 60% enrolment that is not in disrepair should be exempt from closure.
 - Ensure equitable educational access, experiences, and opportunities for all students, and equity in staff employment, transfer, and promotion.
 - Support and enable students, families, teachers and communities to play a role in building a culture of equity at school.
 - Provide professional learning on equity, anti-racism, and Indigenous issues, including the history of Residential Schools, Treaties, and Indigenous peoples’ historical and contemporary contributions to Canada.
 - Require school boards to collect race-based data, which will enhance the incorporation of race equity elements during the development of all education programs.
 - Expand the Urban and Priority High Schools program (UPHS), which provides additional funding to high schools in urban low socioeconomic status communities.
 - Conduct an independent, external review of the statistical model used for funding special education, to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting actual student needs.
 - Increase support for special education funding to school boards to address the challenge of meeting the needs of children with learning exceptionalities and mental health issues.

Pickering-Uxbridge Riding Boundaries:

Consisting of that part of the Regional Municipality of Durham comprised of the City of Pickering; the Township of Uxbridge.

Economy

1. How do you propose to work with Durham Region to create jobs, drive growth, foster innovation, and attract trade and investment to the region?
2. What solutions will you offer to support the economic viability of municipalities within the Greenbelt?

Environment and Energy

3. What role do conservation, retrofits, renewable energy, electric vehicles and nuclear energy production play in your plan to ensure that communities are prepared for, protected from, and supported in managing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events? How will it be funded?
4. What is your party's position on the potential new build at the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station?

Infrastructure

5. Does your party support a federal decision to proceed with the development of an airport on the Pickering airport lands?
6. What is your party's plan to ensure a predictable, formula-based approach and new revenue tools to help municipalities deliver infrastructure over the long term.
7. Does your party support completion of the GO Rail East Extension to Bowmanville by fall of 2024?
8. What is your party's plan to address the safety and severe congestion issues at the Harmony/Bloor 401 interchange in Oshawa?

Social Issues

9. What is your party's commitment to support the seven priority neighbourhoods identified in the Durham Region Healthy Neighbourhoods Project to support strong, safe, equitable communities that improve the health and well-being of all residents?

Whitby Riding Boundaries:

Consisting of that part of the Regional Municipality of Durham comprised of the Town of Whitby.

Economy

1. How do you propose to work with Durham Region to create jobs, drive growth, foster innovation, and attract trade and investment to the region?

Stacey Leadbetter - Ontario Green Party:

The Green Party of Ontario would work with Durham Region to create sustainable, Cleantech jobs that would foster innovation. Investing in the clean economy is essential to remain competitive and to create a vibrant green middle class.

It's a win-win situation. For example, a Green Building Program ensures investments in conservation will put money in your pocket and increase the value of your home. Cleantech innovation and manufacturing in energy projects, construction and trades are currently worth \$3 trillion and is expected to double in the next decade. These technologies are changing the world -- and providing hundreds of thousands of skilled and professional jobs

2. What solutions will you offer to support the economic viability of municipalities within the Greenbelt?

Environment and Energy

3. What role do conservation, retrofits, renewable energy, electric vehicles and nuclear energy production play in your plan to ensure that communities are prepared for, protected from, and supported in managing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events? How will it be funded?

Stacey Leadbetter – Ontario Green Party:

- Conduct province-wide risk assessment on extreme weather event impacts including flooding, tornados, heat waves and ice storms.
- Fund municipal efforts to proactively manage green infrastructure as assets through research and sharing of best practices.
- Conduct province-wide risk assessment on extreme weather event impacts including flooding, tornados, heat waves and ice storms.
- Create a dedicated fund for Ontario municipalities to be used exclusively toward investments in municipal infrastructure.
- Provide new funding for MARS (Municipal Adaptation & Resiliency Service) available for all cities of the Great Lakes and St Lawrence Basin.
- Host a yearly summit on municipal adaptation best practices with neighbouring states and provinces.
- Develop a one-window central repository for climate data including localized climate projections and provincially adopted future climate data sets.

- Mandate permeable pavement on all new parking spaces to reduce flooding from storm runoff.

4. What is your party's position on the potential new build at the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station?

Stacey Leadbetter – Ontario Green Party:

The Green Party would move for the stoppage of this new build. The Province of Ontario can be better served by buying power from Quebec at a quarter of the cost. We need to divest from nuclear energy. Decommissioning at Pickering and at the end of Darlington's current license would actually create more jobs over a longer period of time than doing any rebuilds, renovating or rebuilding.

Infrastructure

5. Does your party support a federal decision to proceed with the development of an airport on the Pickering airport lands?

Stacey Leadbetter – Ontario Green Party:

The lands on which this proposed airport is to be built are some of the best farm lands in the Region. We must make sure our food and water are secure. That is more important than an airport. Hamilton wants to be expanded. Let it happen there.

6. What is your party's plan to ensure a predictable, formula-based approach and new revenue tools to help municipalities deliver infrastructure over the long term.

Stacey Leadbetter – Ontario Green Party:

- Create a dedicated funding stream for green infrastructure within existing infrastructure funding.
- Phase out funding for infrastructure that relies on fossil fuels and increases Ontario's GHG emissions.
- Provide new carbon-free educational grants for students that want.

7. Does your party support completion of the GO Rail East Extension to Bowmanville by fall of 2024?

Stacey Leadbetter – Ontario Green Party:

Yes

8. What is your party's plan to address the safety and severe congestion issues at the Harmony/Bloor 401 interchange in Oshawa?

Stacey Leadbetter – Ontario Green Party:

The Green Party is committed to reducing traffic congestion and would examine the creation of another exit or redesign of the existing exit to reduce the congestion and keep traffic moving.

Social Issues

9. What is your party's commitment to support the seven priority neighbourhoods identified in the Durham Region Healthy Neighbourhoods Project to support strong, safe, equitable communities that improve the health and well-being of all residents?

Stacey Leadbetter – Ontario Green Party:

The Green Party of Ontario is all about creating fair, equitable, healthy and sustainable neighbourhoods.

- Housing:
 - Update zoning laws to allow alternatives to single-family detached homes, such as tiny homes, secondary suites, and laneway housing.
 - Incentivize municipalities to zone for the missing middle: a combination of mixed-use buildings and medium density housing types and rental units that increase residential densities while largely maintaining the look and feel of a neighbourhood.
 - Improve Ontario's inclusionary zoning legislation to ensure the permanent creation of rental and deeply affordable units, mandating that developers include at least 1 new unit of affordable housing for every 5 new houses or condos (20% affordability minimum for new development), including purpose-built rentals.
 - Remove requirements that municipal governments pay a percentage of the cost of affordable housing under inclusionary zoning laws in line with international best practices.
 - Create more affordable, safe rental housing options by working with municipalities to modernize by-laws that currently prohibit or establish unreasonable barriers to creating additional housing, such as licensed basement apartments.

- Health and Welfare, addressing Poverty:
 - Expand the number of and access to Nurse Practitioner led clinics in all parts of the province.
 - Increase funding for Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) that are struggling to fulfill their downloaded mandate from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and provide dedicated funds that ensure enhanced collaboration with various partners, including District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), to enhance the integration and delivery of public services.
 - Immediately increase Ontario Disability Support Payment and Ontario Works payments toward rates that match the low income measure to address the inadequacy of current social programs.
 - Extend health benefits (e.g. Assistive Devices Program, Medical Transportation) to cover low income Ontarians outside of the social assistance system. We also support moving towards universal dental care and pharmacare.
 - Increase asset limits for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Payment recipients, with the amount to be indexed to inflation.
 - Modernize the eligibility requirements for Ontario Works to further empower recipients to find and maintain meaningful work. End the claw back of employment earnings that create a disincentive to work.
 - Ensure that social assistance programs are responsive to the needs of people with mental health and addictions-related disabilities through ensuring eligibility criteria recognizes their illness and that payments are not interrupted during times of transition (e.g. hospitalization, incarceration).

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- Education:
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