



SPECIAL REPORT ON THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION

September 22, 2011

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Pillar Nonprofit Network asked the local provincial candidates for their responses to:

1. Once elected, how will you support and strengthen nonprofits and charities in Ontario? Please provide at least two specific examples or actions of support.

2. Will you maintain or enhance existing financial support to nonprofits and charities in Ontario? Please provide details.

3. How important is the nonprofit sector relative to your broader policy agenda? Please explain.

The questions were emailed on September 12; reminders were sent on September 16 & 20.

Here are their responses.

About Pillar Nonprofit Network

Pillar Nonprofit Network is a voice for the nonprofit sector and supports nonprofit organizations in fulfilling their missions in our community. We provide leadership, advocacy, and support to the nonprofit sector through the promotion of volunteerism, professional development and networking opportunities, and information sharing. Pillar has over 250 member organizations from environment, health, education, social services, arts, sports and faith based sectors.

LONDON - FANSHAWE

Teresa ARMSTRONG, Ontario NDP

1. Being on the board of LUSO has given me firsthand experience of the importance of nonprofits. Helping promote multiculturalism, inclusiveness, well-being and prosperity in our community remains important to me. I was also one of the first chair persons for the Argyle Community Resource Center. Again, this provided firsthand experience in the sector. Being a part of nonprofits has given me experience and knowledge to understand their influence within the community.

The strength and value of not-for-profits are sometimes dismissed and regularly misheard. However, they play a very important role within our communities. Not only I, but also my friend and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath are very grassroots' oriented. Andrea received the Woman of the Year Award in Public Affairs from the Hamilton Status of Women Committee, in recognition of her work in the community. She was also involved with social housing, to the extent that she was awarded the Graham Emslie Award for Community Development in Housing by the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association.

So you can be sure that when we say we will listen to your expertise and advice, that as an MPP my door will be open to listen to, and work with you, it isn't platitudes or rhetoric, it is being true to my roots.

New Democrats in particular want to support and strengthen not-for-profit housing, childcare, and long term care for seniors in this province. There is a desperate need for all three and we cannot wait for the private sector to see such ventures as profitable because people are in need now! Further, private sector businesses always have to feed the profit margins, which invariable means cutting corners. The not-for-profit sector is the ideal service provider for such services.

2. The primary focus of our election platform is on making life more affordable, and helping people get back to work. Wouldn't it be great if no one had to depend on foodbanks? We need to support our nonprofits, but we also need to take the first steps to reduce the dependency and need for certain types of not-for-profit and charitable organizations. However, there will always be an important role for the broader not-for-profit sector to play in our province and I will continue to help maintain the existing financial support. Each not-for-profit sub-sector has specific needs and service targets. There will be greater financial investments, specifically in the areas of childcare and long term care for seniors.

3. Needless to say, the nonprofit sector plays a vital part within our society. Nonprofit organizations share similar goals to the political goals of the New Democratic Party- whether it be awareness, professional development, aid, or working towards a sustainable environment. Not-for-profits, like New Democrats, put the good of the people or cause they serve above the drive to reap monetary gain.

I would like to share two agendas within our policy platform that are relevant to the not-for-profit sector; the first being housing. It saddens me to hear that recently a United Way report stated around 40 per cent of tenants are living in poverty, in areas that are bug infested and neglected. These tenants are left with no recourse as they are already in circumstances that allow them little for necessities such as food and utilities, let alone the opportunity and ability to locate better places to live. Cheri DiNovo, NDP MPP, and Housing critic, states that Ontario has one of the worst affordable housing records in the country, proposing 'the need for landlord licensing, inclusionary zoning, better tenants' rights and setting targets for increasing affordable housing is urgent'. The last co-operative housing in our community which was built with the support of provincial funds was nearly two decades ago under the only NDP government Ontario ever elected, during the worst recession in two generations, because of the value New Democrats see in not-for-profit housing.

Second, I think it is important to mention homecare. As of right now the NDP is the only party which is committed to investing in homecare services to help relieve pressure on frontline healthcare. We know that keeping a senior, who could be cared for at home, in a hospital bed costs \$1200 a day. For that same dollar value, utilizing the not-for-profit sector, we could provide homecare for 12 seniors. We are also concerned with the quality of care seniors are getting in long term care beds as a result of "competitive bidding" processes. The lowest bid is not the best bid when it comes to our seniors. It leads to poor quality food, little personal care or nursing attention. Yet 1 in 4 seniors in a long term bed could be cared for at home, if access to homecare services was available. This is not acceptable.

The NDP wants to create a better community by making it more accessible and sustainable. We must fight poverty and give opportunity to our children. The not-for-profit sector is vital to our broader policy because it is *built* into it. I want to ensure better living conditions through healthcare, housing, childcare, and what better place to start than to work with organizations who deal with these issues first hand.

<http://ontariondp.com/en/ontario-new-democrats-release-affordable-housing-and-anti-poverty-plan.com/en/dinovo-proposes-solutions-to-ease-housing-crisis>

http://www.lusocentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1&Itemid=1

<http://ontariondp.com/en/ontario-new-democrats-release-affordable-housing-and-anti-poverty-plan>

<http://teresarmstrong.ca/2011/09/14/job-creation-job-retention-must-be-a-top-priority-says-ndp/>

Dave DURNIN, Freedom Party of Ontario

1. Freedom party believes people have the right to life, liberty, and property: government is most effective if it maintains its role to protecting those rights.

As such, our policies are not directed to any specific group rather to all individuals of Ontario. We have an 18 plank platform that eliminates the barriers to growth that have been legislated by past Liberal, NDP, and PC governments. These barriers include: Taxes and fees - A Freedom government will eliminate the gas tax and the \$2.9B health premium (<http://www.freedomparty.on.ca>); Monopolies and limits on school enrolments (these prevent competition). A Freedom government will restore choice in

health care, therefore we can end the limits placed on doctors enrolling in schools. We will end the LCBO monopoly.

Legislation not based in reality therefore forcing people to follow irrational rules that cost unnecessary spending. A Freedom government will place the priority in electricity providing clean and the cheapest electricity possible and not trying to change the weather. By doing this people donating to, companies involved in, and volunteers will have more money to place towards whatever they like. This can only support and enhance nonprofits and charities.

2. We will maintain the financial support as it exists now.
3. The principle of freedom applies to all individuals equally and therefore no one group or sector is any more or less important than any other

Tim HARNICK, Ontario Libertarian Party

1. Once elected Libertarians will immediately begin shutting down most of the 666 ministries, agencies and commissions at the Corporation of the Province of Ontario. We passionately believe the only moral use of force by a government is to protect INDIVIDUAL LIFE, LIBERTY and PROPERTY. The government would be reduced to the Police and the Court system ONLY. All other uses of force including taxation is immoral. The resulting windfall of reduced taxation would leave huge pools of capital at the community level. Citizens would then be able to VOLUNTARILY support local charities. Our two specific examples of action and support would be: LIMITED GOVERNMENT and LOW TAXES.

2. Libertarians consider taxation as THEFT. We see National Socialists robbing Peter to pay their friend Paul. Usually the "Pauls" that get the most stolen wealth are friends of the Party in power. Your charity may or may not be on their Christmas card list. After all, buying votes is expensive. National Socialists always promise more than they can deliver. When a Libertarian Government severely LIMITS the size of Government citizens will have more capital available for charitable giving to THE CHARITY OF THEIR CHOICE.

3. Charities will prosper in a free Libertarian Society. We are LIMITING GOVERNMENT and ELIMINATING TAXATION. We would only charge citizens a fee for the Police and Court operating costs. Charities will be the MAIN BENEFICIARIES IN A FREE LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY.

Bassam LAZAR, Green Party of Ontario

1. As a board member on two local non-profit organizations, I recognize the significance of the non-profit and charity sector. The Green Party of Ontario is committed to strengthening and supporting non-profit organizations and charities because we truly value the crucial role they play in our vision of

a better, more sustainable Ontario. We advocate the strengthening of local economies and the creation of resilient communities to which nonprofit and charitable organizations are a backbone. If elected I will strive to encourage and back initiatives such as the expansion of food sharing programs like the Good Food Box program to target priority populations and neighbourhoods. I will be committed to strengthening the consultation and engagement process with the non-profit sector to ensure that funds are effectively utilized and deliveries of services are always improving.

2. The Green Party of Ontario recognizes the critical and indispensable role that the non-profit and charity sector plays in London and Ontario. The number of organizations, like Pillar Nonprofit, and the individuals assisted by them, is a testimony to this. The Green Party will enhance existing financial support to non-profit organizations and charities in Ontario- this is a reflection of the important role the non-profit sector plays in our general policy agenda. We are committed to working with the sector, a sector rich in expertise and experience that can best determine how funds ought to be allocated and what services should be delivered.

3. The Green Party platform is driven by the importance of community-directed programs and planning. Top-down decision-making will be replaced by considerable consultation and engagement with communities, local organizations and citizens. We recognize and support the valuable contribution that the non-profit sector has in enriching a community's well-being. Through our support in projects that help build resilient local economies and communities, we hope that the non-profit sector can aide us in safeguarding Ontario's future prosperity while strengthening social bonds and networks within our communities.

Cheryl MILLER, PC Party of Ontario

No response.

Khalil RAMAL, Ontario Liberal Party

1. Ontario Liberals are committed to maintaining and building a strong and diverse not-for-profit sector in the province of Ontario. That's why we launched the Partnership Project, the first-ever comprehensive consultation process with the sector to strengthen its partnership with the government. After year-long discussions with the sector in rural and urban Ontario, the comprehensive Partnership Project (http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/images/pp/PP_report.jpg) report and plan was released in April 2011. Premier McGuinty accepted the plan's recommendations as the vision for our continued partnership with the not-for-profit sector.

Ontario Liberals will continue to implement the commitments made in the Partnership Project report and will work to enhance our collaborative relationship with the not-for-profit sector.

Already, our plan is getting results:

- We established The Partnership Project Office to help co-ordinate and support advocacy efforts with government.

- We provided \$2M to promote innovation and build capacity in the sector in areas such as coordinated service delivery, volunteer management and training.
- We brought Ontario's private, public and not-for-profit sectors together through the Social Innovation Summit to advance projects that support social innovation and enterprise.
- Ontario Liberals initiated a government-wide Not-for-profit Open-For-Business initiative, to reduce administrative and regulatory burdens.
- We are hosting an international volunteerism forum in December 2011. The forum will look to the future of volunteerism in Ontario and the best methods to support Ontario's volunteers.
- We expanded Infrastructure Ontario's loan program to provide access to capital for community health and social services hubs, aboriginal health access centres and non-profit sports and recreation organizations in Ontario.
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- Recognized the sector's human resources concerns and pledged to provide graduates with a one-year grace period on their OSAP loans in order to encourage a new generation of Ontarians to join the not-for-profit sector.
- Updated the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act for the first time in 50 years to provide not-for-profits with a modern legal framework and allow not-for-profits to engage in new revenue-generating activities to support the good work that they do.
- Recognized more than 67,000 volunteers at more than 300 Volunteer Service Awards ceremonies across Ontario.
- Launched the annual Change the World: Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge which has encouraged more than 30,000 high school students to volunteer across Ontario

Ontario Liberals are committed to continuing and expanding our record of investing in the not-for-profit sector, supporting social innovation, reducing legislative and regulatory barriers to financing, and promoting volunteerism. We are the only party with a plan that recognizes and supports the tremendous contributions of the not-for-profit sector to Ontario.

2. Ontario Liberals recognize that not-for-profits work hard to operate on tight budgets while delivering critical services to our families and our communities. We've made significant investments in communities across Ontario. Unlike, the Harris-Hudak PCs who cut social services and supports for not-for-profits, we know that this sector builds communities and makes our families prosper. That's why we are working with the sector to find new ways of supporting its work, while exploring innovative new solutions to enhance the sector's access to revenue and capital. We are committed to continuing with the Partnership Project plan to devise new solutions for funding flexibility.

3. The not-for-profit sector is an irreplaceable building block of our communities, our economy and an employer of more than 1 million Ontarians.



The Ontario Liberals are the only party to recognize the sector as an equal partner by building a strong relationship with the sector, based on concrete action and respect, to improve coordination and enhance investments in our communities.

We believe that one way to improve productivity is to open up the provision of government services to new forms of competition. Our fiscal plan is looking at how services can be delivered more efficiently and effectively by another entity, be it another level of government, a not-for-profit, a social enterprise or a private-sector organization.

- Premier McGuinty has committed to the recommendations, developed in partnership with hundreds of not-for-profits, as the vision forward for our partnership with the sector.
- We are also the only party to have committed to establishing a not-for-profit advisory board to guide the ongoing partnership between the sector and the government.

Ontario Liberals are proud of our ongoing work with the sector to build its capacity to innovate, develop new financing mechanisms to support its good work, and create consultative processes to keep this agenda moving forward.

LONDON - NORTH CENTRE

Nancy BRANSCOMBE, PC Party of Ontario

No response.

Steve HOLMES, Ontario NDP

1. Once elected I will mobilize a review of provincial funding to look into those essential charities that have lost urgent and much needed support and are now in a critical state for lack of working capital. We will make sure that they survive in the face of recession.

A second form of support I will engage in is the creation of social, political and economic scenarios of opportunity where new funds can be allocated and new sources of income can be found to support the work of existing not-profit and charitable organizations.

2. Yes, absolutely. I will not only support the initiatives that maintain existing funding, I will also vote permanently in support of and present new initiatives in support of the work of charities and non-profits. In the course of my social and political engagement I have personally made numerous calls and promoted various initiatives in support of key Charities that I have always worked with. I have managed to get strong support for Street Connection, Salvation Army, and MS.

3. The ongoing failure of the provincial government's policies to stay the tremendously adverse effects of the recession on the working class peoples of Ontario, and the indifference of many of their politics to the plight of those who have lost the security of a stable source of income demand an urgent change in the Province's Social policies so that key issues like poverty, inequality and political indifference are addressed immediately. In the absence of clear government directions, the not-for-profit sector has generously supplied urgent actions and support to the extent of their increasingly limited resources. We cannot abandon a sector that has in many instances acted in the absence of government with clarity of spirit, total dedication and compassion beyond the call of duty.

Kevin LABONTE, Green Party of Ontario

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Deb MATTHEWS, Ontario Liberal Party

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LONDON WEST

Chris BENTLEY, Ontario Liberal Party

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Gary BROWN, Green Party of Ontario

No response.

Jeff BUCHANAN, Ontario NDP

1. I will personally continue to make the support of local not-for-profits a priority as I am able to with donations, by attending fundraisers and special events, and promoting the good work of these organizations. I echo NDP leader Andrea Horwath's comments when she says "you can only work on a voluntary basis for so long . . . there are costs to providing support." We will remember this as we work with the Trillium Foundation and government departments to better assist the work in the community. And like my federal New Democrat colleagues, I support tax legislation to increase the incentive for Canadians to support charitable and non-profits. I encourage you to take a look at our Plan For Affordable Change for details on investments in housing, social benefits and other programs that will have a direct impact on the work done by many of London's charities.

2. Many of our announced ideas, like removing the HST on essentials, support for housing, a transit fare freeze, and improvements to social assistance will have a direct financial impact helping nonprofits. We will work to enhance and stabilize long term funding so Ontario charities are able to better plan for the future and improve the consistent levels of service they provide.

3. New Democrats like myself recognize that the volunteer sector not only enriches the lives of thousands of Londoners, but also has a huge economic impact worth hundreds of millions of dollars every year in our local community.

As more people become involved, our communities will continue to thrive and prosper. We have spent a great deal of time in this campaign talking about jobs, and the non-profit sector is one of the province's largest employers. We are well aware of that as we craft our policies relating to everything from early childhood education, to the arts, to the environment, to housing, to social services, to health care and a multitude of other areas.

I trust this answers your questions but I encourage yourself or any of your member agencies to contact me again for further information. And once more, thank you for your efforts to bring a voice to this too-often overlooked sector.

Ali CHAHBAR, PC Party of Ontario

No response.

Tim HODGES, Freedom Party of Ontario

No response.

ELGIN – MIDDLESEX - LONDON

Lori BALDWIN-SANDS, Ontario Liberal Party

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- Premier McGuinty has committed to the recommendations, developed in partnership with hundreds of not-for-profits, as the vision forward for our partnership with the sector.
- We are also the only party to have committed to establishing a not-for-profit advisory board to guide the ongoing partnership between the sector and the government.

Ontario Liberals are proud of our ongoing work with the sector to build its capacity to innovate, develop new financing mechanisms to support its good work, and create consultative processes to keep this agenda moving forward.

Kathy CORNISH, Ontario NDP

1. The strength and value of not-for-profits are sometimes dismissed and regularly misheard. However, they play a very important role within our communities. Our leader, Andrea Horwath received the Woman of the Year Award in Public Affairs from the Hamilton Status of Women

Committee, in recognition of her work in the community. She was also involved with social housing, to the extent that she was awarded the Graham Emslie Award for Community Development in Housing by the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association. For that reason alone you can be assured that we understand the importance and value of non profits and charities to the community.

New Democrats in particular want to support and strengthen not-for-profit housing, childcare, and long term care for seniors in this province. There is a desperate need for all three and we cannot wait for the private sector to see such ventures as profitable because people are in need now! Further, private sector businesses always have to feed the profit margins, which invariable means cutting corners. The not-for-profit sector is the ideal service provider for such services.

2. The primary focus of our election platform is on making life more affordable, and helping people get back to work. Wouldn't it be great if no one had to depend on foodbanks? We need to support our nonprofits, but we also need to take the first steps to reduce the dependency and need for certain types of not-for-profit and charitable organizations. However, there will always be an important role for the broader not-for-profit sector to play in our province and I will continue to help maintain the existing financial support. Each not-for-profit sub-sector has specific needs and service targets. There will be greater financial investments, specifically in the areas of childcare and long term care for seniors.

3. Needless to say, the nonprofit sector plays a vital part within our society. Nonprofit organizations share similar goals to the political goals of the New Democratic Party- whether it be awareness, professional development, aid, or working towards a sustainable environment. Not-for-profits, like New Democrats, put the good of the people or cause they serve above the drive to reap monetary gain.

I would like to share two agendas within our policy platform that are relevant to the not-for-profit sector; the first being housing. It saddens me to hear that recently a United Way report stated around 40 per cent of tenants are living in poverty, in areas that are bug infested and neglected. These tenants are left with no recourse as they are already in circumstances that allow them little for necessities such as food and utilities, let alone the opportunity and ability to locate better places to live. Cheri DiNovo, NDP MPP, and Housing critic, states that Ontario has one of the worst affordable housing records in the country, proposing 'the need for landlord licensing, inclusionary zoning, better tenants' rights and setting targets for increasing affordable housing is urgent'. The last co-operative housing in our community which was built with the support of provincial funds was nearly two decades ago under the only NDP government Ontario ever elected, during the worst recession in two generations, because of the value New Democrats see in not-for-profit housing.

Second, I think it is important to mention homecare. As of right now the NDP is the only party which is committed to investing in homecare services to help relieve pressure on frontline healthcare. We know that keeping a senior, who could be cared for at home, in a hospital bed costs \$1200 a day. For that same dollar value, utilizing the not-for-profit sector, we could provide homecare for 12 seniors. We are also concerned with the quality of care seniors are getting in long term care beds as a result of "competitive bidding" processes. The lowest bid is not the best bid when it comes to our seniors. It



leads to poor quality food, little personal care or nursing attention. Yet 1 in 4 seniors in a long term bed could be cared for at home, if access to homecare services was available. This is not acceptable.

The NDP wants to create a better community by making it more accessible and sustainable. We must fight poverty and give opportunity to our children. The not-for-profit sector is vital to our broader policy because it is *built* into it. I want to ensure better living conditions through healthcare, housing, childcare, and what better place to start than to work with organizations who deal with these issues first hand.

Eric LOEWEN, Green Party of Ontario

No response.

Paul MCKEEVER, Freedom Party of Ontario

No response.

Jeff YUREK, PC Party of Ontario

No response.