

## QUESTIONS FROM DECA SOCIALS:

**My question as a tenant in DECA is, will our candidates pledge their support for vacancy control?**

This city has gotten too expensive and there is not a silver bullet to solve this. We have to use every tool in our toolbox. My track record of experience at City Hall means I can utilize the knowledge I have gained there to get things done.

We have serious issues, both pandemic related and ongoing to be addressed and we need a party with Candidates who care about doing the right thing and have a plan to do it.

Ontario renters deserve more and need stability. Liberals plan to bring back rent control to all homes across Ontario and ensure all renters have smaller, more predictable rent increases.

In today's housing affordability crisis, no home should sit vacant. We'll implement an empty homes tax of 5% of assessed value on non-Canadian owners and 2% for Canadian owners with vacant residential units in all urban areas – and any revenue raised will be spent on affordable housing. We'll also work with our federal partners to ban new non-resident ownership in Ontario's housing market for at least the next four years.

**What will you do to help small businesses get back on their feet?**

As Beaches-East York City Councillor, I endeavored to support and promote small business over my eight years in public service. Pop up shops are a great model to combat empty storefronts. Good working relationship with BIA's translates into real help for local businesses and strong efforts to refresh and revitalize with public realm enhancements, public art and greening goes hand and hand with economic growth.

Liberals plan to eliminate corporate taxes for two years for small businesses hit hard by the pandemic. Small businesses are the heart of Ontario's economy, so they are central to our recovery plan. We'll suspend corporate income tax for small businesses most impacted by the pandemic for 2022 and 2023 – with relief scaled to losses in revenues and eliminated entirely for

businesses that lost more than 50% of revenues as a result of the pandemic. We'll also eliminate incorporation fees for new business start-ups and launch a one-stop 311-type service to help businesses navigate government supports.

### What are you going to do for low-income seniors?

My number one Liberal platform plank to stand beside is the Revolutionizing of Elder care. My time in Japan revealed to me the importance of genuinely caring for our seniors. Our plan will guarantee home care for anyone who needs it and will end for-profit long-term care in Ontario. The pandemic was a wake-up call that cannot be ignored. We must recognize that institutionalizing seniors through long-term care has been one of the great mistakes of the 20th century.

Liberals plan to boost seniors' pensions by \$1,000 more per year. Older Ontarians have contributed so much to our province. But like a lot of people, higher living costs are making it harder for seniors on a fixed income to make ends meet. We'll help by increasing the Old Age Security top-up for eligible seniors and we'll also make sure more seniors qualify for this help by increasing the eligibility threshold to \$25,000 for single seniors and \$50,000 for couples.

### QUESTIONS FROM GRADE 9 + 10 STUDENTS IN A MONARCH PARK COLLEGIATE CIVICS CLASS:

How will you tackle Gen Z's problem with mental health and stress? One in four Gen Z feel emotionally distressed.

Mental Health is an absolute priority. Students across the province have been dealt an unfair deal over the past two years: remote learning, lost social time, and struggles with isolation are familiar to everyone. Liberals are committed to training 3,000 new mental health and addictions professionals and hiring 1,000 mental health professionals to eliminate wait times. We will ensure that mental health professionals are in emergency rooms and ready to respond to emergency calls and build 15,000 more supportive homes for mental health and addictions. We will do better.

We are also committed to supporting students by reinstating an optional grade 13. As a parent of two post-secondary kids, I understand that a fulsome 5th year is of huge value. A Grade 13 means we are not forcing students into the world if they're not ready for it.

Currently, our world is being killed by greenhouse gases. How do you plan on reaching net zero emissions?

I am so thrilled to be asked this question! I have been sounding this alarm and taking direct action on this my whole life. Finally people in Ontario are waking up. Ontario used to be a global leader in climate action—then the Ford Conservatives happened, and we went backwards.

An elected Ontario Liberal government will re-establish Ontario's leadership on the environment, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. As a newly endorsed Environmental leader by GreenPac, this speaks volumes to me.

Great news I was able to deliver recently at all our Beaches-East York subway stops was that we will slash all public transit fares across the province to \$1, taking 400,000 car trips off the road, reducing pollution and congestion. If we don't get people back on transit, we will be in serious financial and environmental trouble. We have to encourage people to get back on transit. We have lost muscle memory during the pandemic and we need to reverse this trend.

My experience as Chair of Parks and Environment, my active role with TransformTO, my crusade for Toronto's pesticide bylaw and my hyper local engagement with a Ravine Strategy and the East Toronto Climate Action Group have prepared me to take my green commitment to the next level. I'll do the same at the legislature and continue to push my party to make progress on this front. I've been doing this for a long time and I will continue to do this for the rest of my life.

In my previous role as City Councilor, I implemented Cycling Infrastructure and championed Active Transportation and Vision Zero. We'll make it more affordable and safer to bike, walk and drive by providing a \$500 rebate for e-bikes, expanding cycling lanes and trails, and making it easier to find and park bikes.

I was honoured to be part of the environment platform squad to create strategies and consult with stakeholders and community members. The Liberals have the most ambitious and doable plan to combat the impacts of climate change.