

1. Income Adequacy

Q: Will your party commit to making sure that the incomes people get when they're on ODSP are enough to afford all the regular costs of living, in addition to long-term needs and the costs of having a disability? What specific steps will you take to make ODSP incomes adequate?

The Green Party of Ontario (GPO) will commit to completing the review of the province's social assistance programs. We are determined to improving the ways we assist Ontarians who need the help in gaining meaningful and sustainable employment, securing their income, while remaining accountable, transparent, and fiscally responsible.

We believe that Ontario needs a new approach to social assistance that is fair, less bureaucratic and removes barriers to work. We acknowledge that the programs as they are now aren't working and are in need of significant reform.

We support full funding for the recommendations from the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario, unlike the three parties at Queen's Park.

We are determined to push for improved ways of assisting Ontarians by:

- *exploring the best options to move to a guaranteed annual income,*
- *removing barriers to meaningful employment,*
- *ending the claw-back penalties on benefits and for the working low-income earner that slow or prevent reintegration into the workforce, and*
- *reducing bureaucracy by moving to a simpler, more integrated system focused on the needs of recipients.*

We will continue to push for action and continue to be committed to working for a stronger social assistance structure in Ontario.

Q: Will your party end the freeze on rate increases for family members of people with disabilities on ODSP?

Yes.

Q: Will your party commit to maintaining a separate income support program designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities?

The Green Party of Ontario will commit to undertaking further studies on the ODSP and OW programs and will only modify the programs when consultation with all stakeholders has occurred.

3. Supports for Employment and Social Inclusion

Q: What will your party do to support the employment goals of people with disabilities?

The GPO will remove the barriers that people with disabilities face when trying to gain access to meaningful employment.

Q: Will your party make eligibility for income supports conditional on whether or not a person works or takes training?

No. We want to make it easier for people with disabilities to find meaningful employment.

Q: Will your party create a Social Inclusion Allowance within ODSP and make it available to every ODSP recipient in the province?

We believe that every Ontarian has the right to take part in community activities and to contribute in a meaningful manner. We will remove barriers to this type of participation for people living with disabilities through the creation of a Social Inclusion Allowance or another similar program with the same goals.

4. Access to ODSP

Q: What will your party do to improve access to ODSP?

We believe that Ontario needs a new approach to social assistance that is fair, less bureaucratic and removes barriers to work. We will commit to reducing bureaucracy by moving to a simpler, more integrated system focused on the needs of recipients.