

THE TEN KEY VALUES OF THE GREEN PARTY OF ONTARIO



SUSTAINABILITY

Activities are sustainable if they can be continued without diminishing the opportunities and resources available to future generations. We have only one planet to live on, and we must treat it as if we mean to stay here. The Green Party will support municipal composting programs, and develop education and training for home, business, apartment, school, church and neighbourhood composting programs. Methane gas and rich fertilizer from compost can be resold at profit.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Without justice, there can be no liberty, no stability and no lasting progress. We must act locally and globally to secure basic human rights and build a just society. The Green Party will raise Ontario's minimum wage to a level at which full-time minimum wage earnings are above the poverty line.



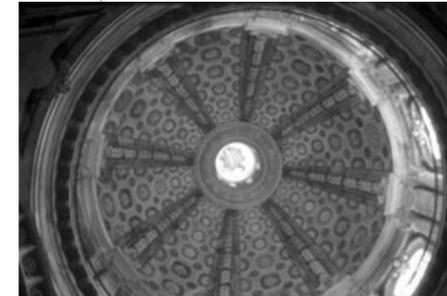
GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY

True democracy exists when citizens meet as equals to resolve problems and make decisions that are important to their community and nation. Citizens must be encouraged to participate in the environmental, economic and political decisions that affect them. The Green Party will recommend replacing our present FPP electoral system with an additional member system of proportional representation such as *Mixed Member Proportional* or *Single Transferable Vote*.



NONVIOLENCE

Every act of violence delays our progress toward a just society. Anger closes the open mind. Fear precludes constructive change. The Green Party will expand animal cruelty laws to phase out factory farming and the use of growth hormones in livestock.



DECENTRALIZATION

The people most affected by a problem must have the authority to solve it. Distant administrations cannot be responsive. Individuals, cities and municipalities need more freedom to shape their destinies. The Green Party will implement net metering. Net metering will enable homeowners and businesses generating green electricity to sell their excess power back to the grid.



COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS

Businesses must contribute to the communities and nations in which they operate. Our economy must build communities, rather than extract profits from them. The Green Party will support co-operatives and businesses engaging in the value-added production of local and organic foods.



GENDER EQUALITY

Co-operation and understanding must replace domination and control. Our feminism is not only about the full and equal participation of women and men in all spheres of activity, but about making room for sensitivity, beauty, empathy and spirituality in all aspects of life. The Green Party will create tax incentives for job-sharing, flex-time and work-at-home programs.



DIVERSITY

We honour the diversity of life on our planet. Every plant and animal has intrinsic value and the right to exist, independent of human needs. All the cultural, sexual and spiritual diversity of the Earth's people has intrinsic value. The Green Party will expand the choices available to parents and students by funding educational alternatives, including home schooling, religious and alternative-learning schools, under the administration of the local board of education.



PERSONAL & GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

We must learn to take responsibility for ourselves, our families, our communities and ultimately for our planet. As we learn to be responsible, we can give others the means to do the same. The Green Party will institute Extended Producer Responsibility so that corporations must assume the environmental and safety consequences of their products and packaging.



ECOLOGICAL WISDOM

Human beings are part of nature, not separate from it. We cannot recklessly endanger whole ecosystems and remain unaffected. Whatever we do to the web of life, we do to ourselves. The Green Party will establish an Ontario Genuine Progress Indicator to track our quality of life with a wide range of economic, environmental and social indicators.

Key Value No. 1: Sustainability A Better Way for Our Children

The Green Party will consider the effects of major decisions on seven generations.



The Green Party respects the needs of voters today, tomorrow and generations into the future. But today's politicians aren't even planning for the next generation, let alone the next seven. Despite promises from all levels of government, child poverty is still a serious problem. In Ontario, Ernie Eves cut welfare payments to families, withheld nutrition supplements to pregnant

women on assistance, increased elementary class sizes, raised post-secondary tuition and weakened environmental protection.

Environmental illness is on the rise. Children are vulnerable, particularly to toxins and pollution. That's why we need policies that protect our children and grandchildren. Our policies are designed to build *A Better Way to Live* for seven generations and beyond. The Green Party will:

- Introduce a *Seven Generations' Bill Of Rights*.
- Help low-income families through our housing, income, education, energy and transportation policies.
- Ban the cosmetic use of chemical lawn spraying of herbicides and pesticides throughout Ontario.
- Support parenting through changes to tax and labour laws.
- Help children from low-income families participate in community arts and sports programs.

“The majority of poor kids are, in fact, living with poor mothers and dads... It raises questions about the working poor, about good jobs and bad jobs, and about minimum wages, which have decreased dramatically in their real purchasing power in the last fifteen years.”

Dr. Robert Glossop,
January 2003.

Social Services: we can afford to care

The Green Party will help working families and take an intensive, long-term approach to fighting poverty, homelessness and crime.

High poverty rates today reflect misplaced political priorities over the last 20 years. Some of the money now spent to police, hospitalize, incarcerate and remediate those who have suffered in poverty would have been better spent preventing poverty in the first place. Ontario is a wealthy province — and we can afford to care. The Green Party will:

- Build a network of community programs to help struggling families and catch kids before they fall.
- Give schools the resources to identify children at risk and link them with local agencies.
- Insist the federal government establish a timeframe to eradicate child poverty in Canada, a promise that was made and broken by the Liberals.
- Raise the personal income tax exemption so more of the working poor are tax exempt.
- Raise Ontario's minimum wage — for the first time since 1994 — to a target level of \$8.80. Full-time minimum wage earnings must be above the poverty line.
- Support community economic development and other programs that prevent welfare dependency.

Child Care

How we care for our children will ultimately determine how people care for each other and the earth. The Green Party sees parenting as a valuable investment, not only in the well-being of our children, but in the future of our society as a whole. The Green Party will:

The Green Party's plan for public and diverse education will:

- Expand the choices available to parents and students by funding educational alternatives, including home schooling, religious schools and alternative-learning schools, under the administration of the local board of education.
- End the \$300 million tax credit for private schools.
- Ensure adequate funding for public schools.

Post-secondary Education

The Green Party calls for an accessible, affordable higher-education system.

Our universities must be at the leading edge of social and technological change, while rooting students in our shared history and achievements. Higher education is a gateway to *A Better Way to Live*. A post-secondary education should seek to develop well-rounded, ethical individuals. The Green Party will:

- Freeze tuition at current levels and re-introduce minimal tuition fees.
- Allow student loans to be repaid through community service.
- Replace Boards of Governors with University Senates, which are elected from within the faculty, students and staff.
- Establish guidelines for corporate funding on campus.

Statistics Canada reports that students from the highest quarter income bracket are 50 percent more likely than students from middle income brackets to attend university. Less than half of young people from low-income backgrounds have access to higher education and the wealthiest quarter are 2.5 times more likely to pursue a university education.

Canadian Federation of Students, 2001.

Policies Based on Values

At a time when our politicians say they can't be bound by three-year plans and businesses manage affairs quarter by quarter, the Green Party's decisions are firmly grounded in *Ten Key Values*. They give us consistency, permanence, vision and stability in a turbulent world. The Green Party of Ontario shares these values with Green parties around the world.

