

# Candidates Survey Results from Ottawa-Vanier By-Election Contenders

**CAMPAIGN:** Childcare

## **ACORN POLICY RECOMMENDATION:**

- Child care should be affordable, accessible, and fair
- Base parent fees on a geared-to-income, sliding fee scale capped at \$10/day;
- Base parent fees on a geared-to-income, sliding fee scale capped at \$10/day;
- Increase operational funding for public and non-profit child care centers;
- Increase number of child care centres and spaces in low-income/underserved communities;
- Simplify access to subsidy enrollment so that it does not require travel and/or internet: access;
- Use existing community infrastructure for child care centers (i.e. community centers, apartment buildings, libraries);
- Base funding programs on fair wages for early childhood educators and other child care workers



## Myriam Djilane

Under 15 years of Liberal government, child care got harder to find, and was the most expensive in Canada. The Ford government has made things even worse, cutting funding for public, not-for-profit childcare. Ontario needs an affordable, province-wide child care plan. Under the NDP plan for childcare, proposed during the 2018 election, households with a combined income under \$40,000 would pay nothing for public, licensed child care. Households that earn more would be charged based on ability to pay, with the average cost coming to \$12 per day. This plan would increase the number of affordable child care spaces in Ontario by 202,000 spaces (a 51% increase). Instead of cutting education like the Ford government has done, the provincial government should be working with school boards, community centres and public buildings to create new centres and spaces. We should be increasing wages for Early Childhood Educators, and working with Ontario colleges with ECE programs to increase the number of Lab Programs where children of students receive care while their parents get hands-on learning.



## Lucille Collard

Ensuring affordable childcare is essential to help families and build our economy. There is a significant lack in affordable childcare options in Ontario. Our province needs more community-based and preschool spaces in schools.



## Benjamin Koczowski

Ben Koczowski and the Green Party of Ontario believe childcare should absolutely be affordable, accessible, fair, safe and healthy for our children. Fees should be geared to income with additional funding from the province for public and licensed non-profit child care centres. Subsidies should be available directly through the child care provider, keeping services local and simplifying enrolment. We would increase funding for licensed child care spaces. We support phasing in funding for a comprehensive program for early childhood education and care to support free daycare for working parents with children under age three. We want to provide support for stay-at-home parents, and to make additional ECE support available to them. We also support incentives to offset capital costs for businesses so they can set up onsite daycare with matching work hours. We believe having daycare near where parents work reduces parents' time and money spent on transporting their child. It is also beneficial to employers as it improves employees productivity.



## Patrick Mayangi

Did not respond to survey

# Candidates Survey Results from Ottawa-Vanier By-Election Contenders

**CAMPAIGN:** Housing Justice

## **ACORN POLICY RECOMMENDATION:**

- Real rent control:
  - Apply rent control to new buildings
  - Vacancy decontrol for full rent control.
- Require that successor landlords comply with Landlord Tenant Board orders placed on predecessor landlords.
- End above guideline rent increases when buildings are in disrepair
- Give municipalities the power back to create their own Inclusionary Zoning policies
- Implement a Resist Renovictions Framework including:
  - In the case that an N13 eviction form is given to a tenant and the tenant requests to return to the unit as protected under the RTA. Create a Tenant Relocation Plan that:
    - Finds the tenant accommodation in the same neighbourhood.
    - Covers the difference in the rent at the temporary accommodation.
    - Covers moving costs
    - Increases funding to social housing



## Myriam Djilane

Vacancy decontrol creates incentives for landlords to use unfair and unethical tactics to put pressure on tenants to move out, so they can then raise the rent to whatever they wish. As a result, Ontario's major cities are becoming increasingly segregated by income, as affordable housing options disappear for low- and moderate-income families. This is unhealthy and unsustainable. For 15 years, the Liberal government broke its promise to eliminate vacancy decontrol. Then the Ford government scrapped rent control altogether for new buildings, now resulting in double-digit rent increases for tenants. The Ontario NDP has called for a review of the Residential Tenancies Act to explore all options to strengthen tenant protections and stop rent gouging, including the elimination of vacancy decontrol. We agree that it is time to close loopholes that allow unethical landlords to abuse above guideline increases in order to extract unfair rents or "renovict" tenants. As Ontario's housing crisis gets worse, increased public investment is needed to create tens of thousands of new affordable homes, and to save thousands of existing affordable homes from being lost due to disrepair.



## Lucille Collard

Rent control and repairs to social housing are crucial issues in our province, and particularly in Ottawa-Vanier. Our previous Liberal Government passed legislation to expand rent control to all private units, including units built after 1991 that had been previously exempted from rent controls. As Liberals, we also passed legislation that enabled inclusionary zoning in order to allow municipalities to create affordable housing in new developments.



## Benjamin Koczwarski

The Green Party of Ontario believes that housing is a right and that all Ontarians should have access to a sustainable, livable and affordable place to call home. The current situation for renters in this province is unfair and untenable, as they face a shortage of purpose-built rentals, skyrocketing rental rates and unethical practices from landlords. We opposed the decision by the PC government to exempt new properties from rent control. The new rules will give developers the ability to set sky-high rates that price people out of their cities and communities. We propose a range of options to get more affordable market housing and public social housing built faster. This includes mandating to developers that a minimum of 20% of all new builds are affordable. We would convert brownfield sites into affordable housing, while also incentivizing developers to build affordable units through lease arrangements of public land. We would consider using revenues from speculation and vacancy taxes towards building more supportive and social housing, which has been neglected by previous governments. We take a Housing First approach that aims to find housing for vulnerable groups as a top priority in order to better provide them with core services and save money to health care, police and criminal justice systems. Rent control should continue to act in the best interests of the tenants, to ensure that landlords cannot surpass guideline increases without maintaining their building, or evade past Landlord Tenant Board orders. Ben Koczwarski proposes an affordable housing reinvestment fund that will finance urgent repairs to properties and improve property quality, while maintaining rents within guidelines. Offering temporary or alternative housing in the same neighbourhood for the same monthly rent to the tenant should be part of that program.

# Candidates Survey Results from Ottawa-Vanier By-Election Contenders

**CAMPAIGN:** Predatory Lending

## **ACORN POLICY RECOMMENDATION:**

- Extend repayment, using a model similar to Alberta's repayment extension of 42 - 60 days.
- Enforce the ban on rollover loans by creating a user real-time database to monitor and avoid rollovers from company to company
- Create protections for installment/rent-to-own/title loans
- Support the creation of alternative, low-interest loan products
- Send request to federal government asking them to support a national, multi-jurisdictional, anti- predatory lending strategy



## Myriam Djilane

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will continue to fight against predatory payday lenders who charge interest rates that reach hundreds of per cent annually. For 15 years, the Liberal government failed to rein in predatory lenders. And the Ford government has shown that it cares even less for low-income people who need access to affordable credit. It is time to put a fair cap on payday loan interest, and extend the repayment period to 60 days, as it is in Alberta. Ontario needs to increase regulation and monitoring, and enforce the ban on rollover loans and company-to-company rollovers.



## Lucille Collard

Our previous government introduced increased regulation of payday lenders, enhanced municipal powers to regulate payday lenders.



## Benjamin Koczvarski

The Green Party of Ontario applauds past work done by the federal government to limit predatory lending practices. We believe we should further efforts to ensure that all Ontarians have access to fair interest rates on personal loans, and monitored interest rates on loans for real property.



## Patrick Mayangi

Did not respond to survey

# **Candidates Survey Results from Ottawa-Vanier By-Election Contenders**

**CAMPAIGN:** Public Power

**ACORN POLICY RECOMMENDATION:**

Increase OESP levels annually in line with hydro rate increases



## Myriam Djilane

We need to lower the underlying costs of hydro by getting private profits off hydro bills and returning to public power, starting by restoring Hydro One to public ownership and control. Ontario's hydro system should serve the public, not private investors. The Ontario NDP is committed to eliminating unfair rural delivery costs, ending mandatory time-of-use rates, capping private profit margins, and returning accountable public oversight to our hydro system. It is time to expand the OESP and double the support for low-income families who heat with electricity. The Ontario NDP successfully fought to end winter disconnections, and the NDP will continue to fight unfair and unjustifiable fees and disconnection policies that contribute to energy poverty



## Lucille Collard

We are proud that the Ontario Liberal Government brought forward OESP in 2016. We believe that the current roll backs to energy policies, including wasting millions of taxpayer dollars opposing the carbon tax, is detrimental to current and future generations in Ontario.



## Benjamin Koczowski

The Green Party of Ontario supports significant reforms to the energy system in Ontario, including buying clean power at lower cost from Quebec and other jurisdictions and choosing cheaper, cleaner renewable energy sources that can provide electricity at a lower cost than nuclear or natural gas. We believe that electricity subsidies should be targeted at those living on low and modest incomes. Therefore we would cancel blanket hydro subsidies that primarily benefit people with high incomes and instead target subsidies for people who need them most.



## Patrick Mayangi

Did not respond to survey

# Candidates Survey Results from Ottawa-Vanier By-Election Contenders

**CAMPAIGN:** Community Benefits Agreements

## **ACORN POLICY RECOMMENDATION:**

All provincial infrastructure planning and investments must include binding community benefits agreements: that include:

- Local hiring from the low-to-moderate income community, including job training and apprenticeship opportunities;
- Community engagement in the design, development, implementation and outcome of community benefits;
- Resources to build capacity of existing community organizations who can help ensure community benefits meet the needs of community members;
- Living wages for all workers during and after construction;
- A robust accountability framework for the evaluation of community benefits, including mechanisms for monitoring, tracking and evaluation



## Myriam Djilane

Andrea Horwath and New Democrats believe that the best way to deliver infrastructure projects is through a publicly managed process that engages fully with the local community. We believe that making greater use of community benefit agreements will deliver much needed infrastructure projects with the greatest possible benefit to the people of Ontario. Ontario should make greater use of community benefit agreements in infrastructure projects. Public investments in infrastructure should be leveraged to create more opportunities for workforce and community development. This would mean more opportunities for Ontarians to begin and complete apprenticeship and job training, and more opportunities to integrate infrastructure projects with the vision of the local community. As a first step, Ontario must develop a robust framework for early integration of these agreements in the infrastructure delivery process.



## Lucille Collard

A living wage is crucial for workers in Ontario, particularly on provincial construction projects. Our previous Liberal Government was proud to increase the minimum wage to \$14/hour and had plans to raise the minimum wage to \$15 /hour. The current Government rolled back our progressive policies.



## Benjamin Koczwarski

Ben Koczwarski and the Green Party of Ontario support the enhanced use of Community Benefits Agreements to increase economic inclusion and opportunity for marginalized communities. Democratic engagement is one of the foundations of the Green Party of Ontario and as such we are a strong advocate for local decision-making and empowering municipalities. We oppose decisions by the Ford government to take power away from municipalities, to interfere in local elections and to bring back Ontario Municipal Board rules that favour developers. We support continued municipal engagement in community planning, and encourage our municipalities to make the processes for community input clear, inclusive, participatory and respectful. The Green Party of Ontario supports on-the-job training as a means for skills development, especially in the construction industry. We believe in paying workers a living wage.



## Patrick Mayangi

Did not respond to survey

# Candidates Survey Results from Ottawa-Vanier By-Election Contenders

**CAMPAIGN:** Fair Benefits

## **ACORN POLICY RECOMMENDATION:**

- Raise the rates by \$500/month for people on OW and ODSP;
- The Housing Allowance must reflect the market rate rent in Ontario. Allowance needs to be set by the City.
- Clawbacks:
  - Increase the employment income before clawbacks from \$200/month to \$800/month;
- Limits for OW recipients need to match limits of ODSP recipients;
- Make all assets exempt for the first 6 months of assistance;
- Consider all RRSPs as exempt assets, regardless of whether they are locked in or not.;
- Don't roll back the definition of disability



## Myriam Djilane

In the last 20 years, Conservative and Liberal governments have allowed poverty to deepen for those receiving social assistance. New Democrats are committed to restructuring Ontario's social assistance system, to ensure a more person-centred approach to support. We fully endorse the Income Security: A Roadmap for Change report from 2017, and support all of its key recommendations, including:

- Raising ODSP rates by 5% annually and OW rates by 10%, 7% and 5% annually until 2023 (future increases will be based on income adequacy, and set by an independent panel).
- Exempting as assets all funds held in TFSAs and RRSPs
- Introducing an income-tested housing benefit to assist all low-income people, regardless of whether they receive income assistance.

We also support increasing the amount of employment income that can be earned by ODSP recipients from \$200 to \$400 per month. We also support a review the ODSP Work-Related Benefit, as per recommendations in the Roadmap.



## Lucille Collard

We believe that OW and ODSP rates should be raised and that we should remove asset limits for people with disabilities. We believe that disability support is important. This is why our previous Liberal government committed to basic income pilots to 4,000 Ontarians. The basic income pilot projects aimed to reduce poverty in a more sustainable way. The current Ford governments roll backs to social services are appalling. We are opposed to the roll back of the definition of disability.



## Benjamin Koczowski

We believe students, seniors, low-income earners and people with disabilities have become the collateral damage of Ford's tunnel vision. We would 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. We would 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. We would increase asset limits for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Payment recipients, with the amount to be indexed to inflation. We would 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). We would increase the personal income tax exemption for low income individuals. Longer-term, we would aim to ensure guaranteed basic income for all Ontarians to ensure that no one falls through the cracks. A guaranteed income would erase the red tape and bureaucracy that is forced on many people living in poverty in order to qualify for benefits.

# **Candidates Survey Results from Ottawa-Vanier By-Election Contenders**

**CAMPAIGN:** \$15/hour Minimum Wage

**ACORN POLICY RECOMMENDATION:**

Raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour, indexed to inflation



## Myriam Djlane

We strongly support raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, with further increases indexed to inflation, making it more predictable for families and businesses. And all workers are entitled to earn no less than the minimum wage, including restaurant staff, students and young people. But instead of raising the minimum wage, last year the Ford government cancelled a \$1 per hour minimum wage increase, taking hundreds of dollars out of the pockets of working Ontarians.



## Lucille Collard

Our previous Liberal Government was proud to increase the minimum wage to \$14/hour and had plans to raise the minimum wage to \$15 /hour. The current Government rolled back our progressive policies.



## Benjamin Koczwarski

The Green Party of Ontario would raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour. But ultimately we recognize that what people need is a living wage, and in many places in Ontario, more than \$15/hour is needed to live.



## Patrick Mayangi

Did not respond to survey