

PRINCIPLES FOR A

Greener and More Caring COVID-19 Recovery

COVID-19 has put our world on pause, forcing us to re-examine the way we live, work and play. We must think carefully about how we restart our province.

The choices we make today about how to reboot our lives will shape how we live for generations to come. The path we were on was not sustainable or just. The old path did not adequately care for the people and places we love.

So let's choose a different path.

This crisis has reminded us what really matters: our health and that of our loved ones; clean air and locally grown food; front-line workers and care providers; and a safe and affordable place to call home.

This crisis has also reminded us what is possible. We can achieve remarkable things when we count on each other, respect science, and cooperate on solutions.

People working together is what's getting us through this pandemic. Together we can build back an even better Ontario. The Green Party of Ontario offers a set of principles to guide our recovery from COVID-19.

Let's restart Ontario with a Greener and More Caring Recovery →

1 Re-energize climate action with good jobs **GREEN JOBS**

A green recovery will keep our air clean and communities vibrant while creating jobs in the fastest growing markets. By investing wisely in greener choices for a healthier future, Ontario can become a leader in EV manufacturing and low pollution travel; healthy efficient homes; sustainable forestry and responsible mining.

2 Restore dignity for elders **DIGNITY FOR ELDERS**

The way we care for our elders needs a complete rethink. The long-term care system must be overhauled to put care and compassion over profit. We need a broad reset of how we plan for aging to prevent isolation and ensure the dignity of people's golden years.

3 Uphold our new respect for workers **RESPECT WORKERS**

The heroes that have seen us through this pandemic should not return to being an afterthought in government policy. Let's hold onto this appreciation for front-line workers in professions like nursing, teaching, childcare, and food service. These women-led professions should be permanently protected with fair wages and paid sick leave.

4 **Rebalance health care** PREVENT ILLNESS

COVID-19 put enormous strain on our healthcare system. Thanks to dedicated healthcare workers, we have pushed through despite the gaps. Let's take this chance to rebalance healthcare to focus on primary and community care, to prevent illness and promote mental health, and to improve the health outcomes of racialized communities who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

5 **Re-envision community safety to protect Black, Indigenous and racialized people** RACIAL JUSTICE

We have failed to deliver meaningful change for racialized communities, who continue to suffer from acts of violence and discrimination. Tackling systemic racism must include dramatic changes to how we ensure community safety so that we protect racialized lives, and build trust and equality across Ontario.

6 **Reimagine our cities and neighbourhoods** AFFORDABLE HOMES

Time in quarantine highlighted the value of a safe home and liveable community. We can reshape our neighbourhoods to make it easier to get around, whether walking, cycling or taking public transit, to provide access to park space, and to get a handle on soaring housing prices so that everyone can afford a roof over their head.

7 **Support our local independent businesses** SUPPORT LOCAL

People want to buy local, but the small businesses and non-profits so vital to our cities and towns are struggling to stay afloat. Let's help the shops, restaurants and community organizations at the heart of every downtown to get back on their feet and reopen safely. And let's address the unique challenges faced by Black and Indigenous owned businesses in Ontario's economic recovery efforts.

8 **Protect local food and water** FOOD AND WATER

Conserving nature is an investment in our shared future. By protecting forests, farmland, and wetlands, we ensure that local food continues to grow and water continues to flow. Let's uphold the laws that protect the places we love because nature is our best defence against floods, storms and other climate threats.

9 **Care for our Children** EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

It takes a village to raise a child. Restarting our economy means our children need safe spaces to learn and grow. And parents won't be able to return to work if they have anxiety about the safety of their kids. Let's invest in schools and childcare so reopening doesn't put our children at risk.

10 **Take care of each other with a Basic Income Guarantee** BASIC INCOME

Finally, with millions of Canadians out of work, we must ensure that everyone can afford to put food on the table. We can plug the gaps in our social safety net with a Basic Income. It will ensure nobody falls through the cracks when an emergency strikes.