

2014 Provincial Election: 5 Key Priorities for Ontario's Nonprofit Sector

1. If elected, will you ensure that the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (ONCA), that was passed unanimously by all three political parties, is proclaimed immediately to end the legislative limbo so Ontario's nonprofit organizations can grow and develop?

Yes. The Green Party of Ontario knows that nonprofit organizations do great work for our local communities and we want them to be able to grow and develop to their fullest potential as soon as possible. The GPO also advocates strongly for transparency and accountability in governance and the ONCA will ensure that these two important goals are met. Therefore we will commit to passing the ONCA immediately.

2. Will you commit to supporting the creation of a youth internship program for postsecondary graduates that will provide paid, meaningful work experience while supporting the training and development of the next generation of community leaders in the nonprofit sector?

Yes. We recognize that young adults today have more education than any generation that has come before them and therefore have skills and knowledge to contribute meaningfully to their communities. We also recognize their challenges: twice the unemployment rate of older Ontarians and debilitating student debt. It's bad for the economy, bad for their health, and tough on their families.

Existing support programs for youth employment ask established employers what they want from young people. We want young people to tell us what they have to offer. We want to hear about their great ideas. We want to promote their chances to succeed. We want to help them change the way we do business. We want them to be in charge of their own meaningful learning experiences at work.

The GPO will therefore lay the groundwork for a \$300 million Social Innovation Foundation. The SIF will provide grants, loans, and mentorship to help young innovators and entrepreneurs develop and implement solutions to problems we face. The SIF will support young adults to start social enterprises, businesses and non-profits.

The Social Innovation Foundation will be funded by diverting money for corporate grants in the Ontario regional development funds and further supported through investment tools such as crowd-sourced funding and RRSP-eligible community bonds.

3. If elected, will you work with the nonprofit sector to develop a workplace-based

pension plan and ensure the sector's inclusion in the development of any future provincial pension plans?

Yes. The Green Party supports pension reforms to ensure that all Ontarians have adequate financial resources to retire with dignity. The Green Party is committed to working with all stakeholders in exploring new ways of funding pensions without increasing payroll taxes on workers and businesses.

4. Will your party commit to implementing a cross-government nonprofit sector council, led by the Premier and community nonprofit leaders, to advance the mutual interests of the Government of Ontario and nonprofit organizations?

Yes.

5. Will your party commit to working in partnership with the nonprofit sector to cut the red tape in administering the sector's funding so that both government and nonprofits can save money and time in order to reinvest in more services?

Yes – nonprofits work for the betterment of their communities. The GPO supports long-term stable funding for non-profits that includes support for administration and operations. We want non-profits to focus on the important work they do, not be burdened with constant pressure to fund raise and write grants.

Non-profits deserve smarter regulations that help them operate efficiently. In addition, we support another round of amendments to the Assessment Act to exempt all not-for-profit homes from property taxes, whether they began as nursing homes or charitable homes.