

Ontario Election 2014: Engage Your Candidates this Election!

Ontario will go to the polls on June 12, 2014. Elections provide meaningful opportunities for the nonprofit sector to catch the attention of political candidates to share the size, scope and impact of nonprofits and charities on our communities across Ontario. Reaching out to candidates will help open dialogue and build a foundation for working together with elected representatives and their staff post-election.

These opportunities can be planned or spontaneous— such as organizing a town hall, inviting candidates to an event, or running into a candidate on the street or meeting them on your front step.

It's good to be prepared for whichever opportunity comes up- so that you can share a compelling story or captivating data bite of how your organization and the communities you work with are creating vibrant, resilient places to live and work.

See ONN's resource kit and other tips on engaging- nonpartisan style- in the election: <http://www.theonn.ca/ontario-election-2014>.

Questions, comments or tips to share? Contact Sarah at sarah@theonn.ca.

Nonprofits can bring priorities and key messages to the attention of candidates in many ways at:

- Individual meetings
- Community or organization events where candidates are hosted
- All-candidates forums or town hall meetings

Some do's and don'ts to keep in mind

Do

- Keep it nonpartisan. Provide equal opportunity to all local candidates to participate.
- Organize it. A well-organized meeting will enhance the profile of local organizations and the nonprofit sector in general.
- Prepare. Do your homework and talk about issues and opportunities that are likely to generate interest from all parties.

Don't

- Focus only on one candidate or political party.
- Instruct or influence constituents as to which candidate or party to vote for.
- Make asks for priorities that are outside the scope of provincial government- i.e. federal or municipal government issues. [See Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo's resource.](#)