#### **Beaches East York Communities of Faith**

#### **Ontario Provincial Election 2025**

#### **Candidates Questionnaire**

Over the past number of federal and provincial elections, several communities of faith in the riding of Beaches East York have come together to host an all-candidates meeting, with a focus on creating a space for respectful dialogue among candidates and members of our communities.

As people and communities of faith, we approach this election based on our values and faith commitments. We are grateful for those who put their names forward for this important leadership role in our community and the Province. We have never endorsed any one candidate over others and have sought to create opportunities for our members to engage with candidates on issues of interest coming out of our faith and values. We encourage our members to be involved in our community at all times, including through voting in elections. It is up to each individual to determine how they will vote.

Given the short timeframe for our current Provincial election, rather than hosting an all-candidates meeting, we decided to create a short questionnaire for candidates to allow us to pull together materials for our congregations. The short timeframe for the election also made it a challenge for candidates to respond. We appreciate their efforts to provide input on our questions. This document outlines answers from the four main candidates in this riding:

- Kate Dupuis, New Democratic Party
- Mary Margaret McMahon, Liberal Party
- Anna Michaelidis, Progressive Conservative Party
- Jack Pennings, Green Party

**Beach Metro News** has produced profiles on all the candidates in this riding, as well as neighbouring ridings. These might also be helpful resources for considering how to vote, particularly for members of our communities of faith who live outside Beaches East York. News Archives – Beach Metro Community News

A small committee put together this questionnaire. It is being offered to congregations across Beaches East York for distribution to their members.

- Margaret Amanatides, Danforth Mennonite Church
- Paul Dowling, Beach United Church
- Patricia Elkerton, Calvary Baptist Church
- Jamie Perttula, Church of the Resurrection, Anglican
- Michael Van Dusen, St Aidan's Anglican Church
- Nicholas White, Kimbourne Park United Church

## KATE DUPUIS, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Kate Dupuis for Beaches--East York « Ontario NDP

# What motivates you to run as a candidate in this election? What values would shape how you would take on the role of MPP?

I have always been active in my community, whether on student government in high school, the Psychological Graduate Students Association at the University of Toronto while I was pursuing my PhD, or on my parent council at my kids' school.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, I was working as a College Professor and as a researcher in long-term care. My two young kids were in daycare and in the first year of FDK. It was a very scary and stressful time, especially for parents trying to manage work responsibilities while juggling small kids underfoot.

In the summer of 2020, it became increasingly clear that the Ford government had no plans to keep kids and education workers safe in schools. So I began to do what I have always done throughout my life, I began to organize. Together with parents, educators, healthcare professionals, researchers, and members of the Ontario NDP caucus, we created a Safe Schools movement, pushing the Ford government to take evidence-informed steps to keep Ontarians safe, and fighting for equitable access to public health tools. This really reinforced for me the power of the people: when a group of like-minded individuals collaborate and work together with a positive spirit and hopeful nature, they can win. My experience led me to this incredible opportunity to run for office here in my beautiful community.

The values that inspire me the most are connection, collaboration, and creativity. I love living in Beaches-East York, and as your MPP would work hard with you to ensure I fight for your needs at Queen's Park.

People are tired of waiting for health care services - long waits in Emergency Rooms, waiting for specialist appointments, and waiting in outpatient clinics. We can see that healthcare workers are doing their best with the resources that they have at their disposal. What would your party do to adequately resource frontline healthcare professionals and to strengthen our public healthcare sector so that all have equitable, quality access to services?

When Doug Ford took office in 2018, there were already approximately 800,000 Ontarians without a family doctor, and approximately 1,000 patients on average being treated daily in hospital hallways. He inherited a hallway mess and has only made it worse over the last 7 years. I have been a psychologist for over a decade, and I have worked in the healthcare field under both Liberal and Conservative governments. It is clear that it is long past time for a new approach to healthcare in Ontario.

The NDP will hire 3500 new family doctors, and improve staffing ratios for other allied healthcare professionals, including nurses. We will cut red tape so doctors can spend their time

seeing patients, not doing paperwork, and we will support the re-certification of internationally trained healthcare workers, to help them get into the Ontario workforce faster. Our plan is a holistic one, which will fund long-term care and home care systems as a means of alleviating the strain on acute care. Our plan will help to encourage recruitment of new healthcare workers and divert people away from emergency departments. My personal line of work is in moral distress and moral injury, in particular for frontline workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As MPP, this would be a key area of focus, with an emphasis on retaining and returning healthcare heroes.

As you know, poverty is a serious issue in many communities, including Beaches East York. More people are finding it hard to manage financially, affected by high rents, a lack of affordable housing and sometimes homelessness. The current average market rent in Beaches East York is \$2295, approximately 16% higher than the national average.

More people lack food, relying on food banks to get by. In 2024, there was a 32% increase in food bank usage in Toronto, with some of those food banks being facilitated by church congregations and non-profits in Beaches East York. Community members are further concerned about the potential impacts resulting from threats against the Canadian economy, coming from south of the border, that could result in job loss, reduction in hours worked, and increases in the cost of living.

# What ideas would you champion to influence and effect change to positively impact our community?

The Ontario NDP would immediately double the rates of OW and ODSP, which have been kept too low for far too long. We must ensure that those who rely on these supports are able to receive a liveable wage. \$1368 a month is simply impossible to live on. Ontarians who need support must be provided with enough funds to allow them to live a dignified life.

We know that affordability—whether it's housing, gas, groceries- is a huge issue for so many neighbours. I hear this every day when I'm connecting with our neighbours. The Ontario NDP will provide monthly grocery rebates for families, and force grocery stores to stop price gouging their customers. We will invest in deeply affordable housing, and bring back real rent control-making it harder for lousy landlords to jack up the rent on tenants- and vacancy decontrol-meaning the price of a unit will be tied to the unit, not to the tenant.

The Ontario NDP has a plan to protect Ontarians, fight back against Trump's threats, and build a resilient, more tariff-proof Ontario. We will work with Ontario employers and industry and labour unions to defend every job, help industries find new markets, promote Ontario-made goods, and direct the government to procure locally- ensuring that we are supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, in addition to trade-exposed industries like automotive manufacturing. To make sure we aren't in this vulnerable position again, Marit Stiles, Leader of the Ontario NDP, will better tariff-proof our economy by supporting industries in finding new markets, and invest in retraining, and accelerate local infrastructure projects to keep people working. We will fight back with Team Canada, working alongside other provinces and territories and the Government of

Canada, speaking with one voice and acting collaboratively to protect jobs and our economy. Everywhere we go across our riding, we are hearing people speak about their newfound commitment to shopping local, and buying Canadian-made goods. We are also seeing a resurgence of the Canadian flag on lawns, in windows, flying proudly once more. At this difficult time, we are coming together to support one another, and this gives me so much hope for our province and community.

Several large housing developments are under way right now in Beaches East York. Most of these new developments include only a tiny proportion of "affordable housing". Housing affordability is at a crisis level for households of all sizes and income profiles. If elected as MPP for this riding, how will you work to ensure that all new housing development in our community addresses the needs of the wide range of people that live here? Please frame your answer as to what could be done by the party you represent, you as an MPP in the legislature and you as a leader in this community.

Under Doug Ford, safe, stable, supportive housing has become unattainable for so many in our province. More than 81,000 people are homeless. In Toronto alone, almost 93,000 people are on the waitlist for supportive housing. The average rent price has gone up by 40% in just 7 years.

Housing is a human right. Housing is also a primary social determinant of health and being homeless puts people at an increased risk of medical concerns. It costs so much less to house someone than to have them seek emergency care, and we need a caring and compassionate government that will support people to find the housing that they need.

The Ontario NDP will fight to tackle homelessness and end encampments. We will fund 60,000 new supportive housing units, reverse decades of cuts to our shelter systems, and work with the federal government to help more people move out of shelters and into homes.

Areas that are slated for increased density, like Main and Danforth, should have assured funding to build a "complete community." In addition to affordable housing, growing communities must have a new school, community centres, child care, libraries, seniors' centres, and health services. As your MPP, I would work to reverse the Doug Ford policies that starve Toronto of community benefit funding and investment in parks and open spaces that support intensification.

I work in the long-term care field, where we emphasize a "person-centred" approach to care, centring the needs of each individual, and ensuring that their role in the system is also being honoured. I will bring this model to my work, listening to my constituents, learning from them, and working together to bring their concerns and ideas to Queen's Park.

As faith groups, we see our whole planet as a gift from the Creator. We also recognise a duty of care for all plants and animals, as well as humanity, including our grandchildren's grandchildren. Climate change threatens Ontario and Beaches East York in many ways – from flooding to extreme temperatures, to emissions and impacts on different species. If you are elected, what focus will you bring to the issues in this riding?

Our beautiful riding includes so many ravines, walking trails, and beaches. We must ensure that we protect the air and water in Beaches-East York, and right across Ontario. That includes cancelling the Therme MegaSpa at Ontario Place, which threatens to divert sewage into Lake Ontario on the West side of Toronto, with inevitable spread to our precious East end beaches. We must also phase out Toronto's Portlands gas plant, which spews pollution across our community, moving instead to clean energy sources including wind and solar.

The Ontario NDP was instrumental in working in collaboration with community members across Ontario to stop Doug Ford's destruction of our precious Greenbelt. We must ensure that any new infrastructure in Ontario is being built wisely. We must stop Highway 413, which is expected to cross nearly 100 rivers, creeks, and streams, with the danger that runoff from roads can drive pollution into watersheds, and cancel the Bradford Bypass. We have seen what happens to wildlife when green spaces are not protected, with increased reports that coyotes, whose natural habitat at Ontario Place was destroyed, are now running rampant through Liberty Village.

Children and youth will be those most impacted by the growing climate crisis. The Ontario NDP will establish Ontario's first Youth Climate Corps, giving opportunities to young Ontarians to learn skills and earn a fair wage while helping Ontario communities reduce their emissions, restore their natural environments, and become more resilient to climate change. My Ontario NDP colleague Peter Tabuns proposed a Climate Resilience bill that will ensure Ontario is prepared to deal with, amongst other things, smoke days like those we experienced across the province in 2023.

Finally, we will help Ontario drivers make the switch to electric vehicles to save money and support our auto manufacturing sector, provide free or discounted electric heat pumps to Ontario households, and enhance Ontario's SaveONEnergy Affordability program to provide retrofit support to renters and low-income households, ensuring fair access to Ontario's energy savings program.

## MARY MARGARET MCMAHON, LIBERAL PARTY

Mary-Margaret McMahon | Candidate in Beaches—East York • Candidate dans Beaches—East York – Official candidate for the Ontario Liberal Party | Candidate official du Parti libéral de l'Ontario

## What motivates you to run as a candidate in this election? What values would shape how you would take on the role of MPP?

Growing up in a small town with parents who took me out volunteering every chance they could, taught me firsthand the huge benefits of giving back to your community. The more we give, the happier we feel. That mantra has guided me my whole life.

It led me to politics, serving two terms as your City Councillor for beautiful Beaches-East York from 2010 to 2018 where I was focused on getting things done! My experience at City Hall means I can utilize the knowledge I gained to benefit my constituents and advocate at Queen's Park.

Since being elected as your Member of Provincial Parliament in 2022, I have put forward legislation and even had Bill 211 passed, a rare feat for opposition members. As your neighbour and your voice, I often oppose Ford's priorities and actions, but pride myself on working collaboratively across party lines, ensuring Beaches East York is always heard.

I am running again for the Ontario Liberal's under Bonnie Crombie because we have to get back to the basics that matter to all of us – healthcare, housing, education, and affordability. I will deliver more for you with endless energy, an open-door policy at our Constituency Hub, and an open-heart at Queen's Park.

People are tired of waiting for health care services - long waits in Emergency Rooms, waiting for specialist appointments, and waiting in outpatient clinics. We can see that healthcare workers are doing their best with the resources that they have at their disposal. What would your party do to adequately resource frontline healthcare professionals and to strengthen our public healthcare sector so that all have equitable, quality access to services?

The Liberal Party will restore trust in our healthcare system and get every person in Ontario a family doctor within four years.

My Ontario Liberal colleagues and I have a plan to educate, attract and retain thousands of new domestic and internationally trained family doctors, creating two new medical schools and expanding existing medical schools, and adding at least 1200 qualified and experienced internationally trained doctors. We will improve the Ontario Health Team network, modernize family medicine, and stop penalizing patients and doctors if they seek care at walk-in clinics.

This will take pressure off hospitals and urgent care and be the first step in improving our healthcare system – one that should always be public and paid for by your OHIP card, not your credit card.

As you know, poverty is a serious issue in many communities, including Beaches East York. More people are finding it hard to manage financially, affected by high rents, a lack of affordable housing and sometimes homelessness. The current average market rent in Beaches East York is \$2295, approximately 16% higher than the national average.

More people lack food, relying on food banks to get by. In 2024, there was a 32% increase in food bank usage in Toronto, with some of those food banks being facilitated by church congregations and non-profits in Beaches East York. Community members are further concerned about the potential impacts resulting from threats against the Canadian economy, coming from south of the border, that could result in job loss, reduction in hours worked, and increases in the cost of living.

# What ideas would you champion to influence and effect change to positively impact our community?

My Ontario Liberal colleagues and I will address affordability for households in Ontario by eliminating the 8% provincial component of the HST on hydro and home heating bills. This will save Ontario families an average of \$200 annually.

We will double ODSP benefits and index them to inflation, improving the situation for the half a million people who rely on ODSP. ODSP currently provides a maximum of \$1,368 per month.

For students, we will eliminate interest on OSAP loans, and delay repayment until young graduates make at least \$50,000 a year.

In Beaches East York, I will continue to champion our incredible small businesses, encouraging our community to shop local at every opportunity. The Ontario Liberals have proposed cutting the small business tax rate in half, 3.2 per cent to 1.6 per cent, and increasing the eligible income threshold, saving our irreplaceable small business owners up to \$18,000 a year.

Several large housing developments are under way right now in Beaches East York. Most of these new developments include only a tiny proportion of "affordable housing". Housing affordability is at a crisis level for households of all sizes and income profiles. If elected as MPP for this riding, how will you work to ensure that all new housing development in our community addresses the needs of the wide range of people that live here? Please frame your answer as to what could be done by the party you represent, you as an MPP in the legislature and you as a leader in this community.

Our plan will slash taxes on new homes, improve renter rights and save people money. This includes eliminating the Provincial Land Transfer Tax for first-time homebuyers and non-profit home builders. We will scarp Development Charges on new middle-class housing, which can add up to \$170,000 to the cost of homes. We will make rent more affordable by introducing fair, phased-in rent control, resolve Landlord-Tenant Board disputes within two months, and establish the Rental Emergency Support for Tenants Fund to help vulnerable renters avoid eviction during financial emergencies.

I am proud of the housing projects that I was able to spearhead as your City Councillor, offering many people options to live in our beautiful Riding. In addition, I have a strong working relationship with BEY MP Nathaniel Erskine Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, and through collaborative work, we will deliver the best for you.

My team and I provide crucial services, including offering housing resources, preventing evictions, and starting tenants' associations. We have experienced our share of recent tragedies in BEY; unhoused neighbours who are greatly under-served. They deserve more. I will continue to work on sustainable solutions, including the Ontario Liberal promise to double ODSP and invest in our communities to help forge a path out of homelessness.

As faith groups, we see our whole planet as a gift from the Creator. We also recognise a duty of care for all plants and animals, as well as humanity, including our grandchildren's grandchildren. Climate change threatens Ontario and Beaches East York in many ways – from flooding to extreme temperatures, to emissions and impacts on different species. If you are elected, what focus will you bring to the issues in this riding?

Working on environment and climate change issues is a passion for me. I have served as the Liberal critic for Environment and Climate Change. As the local City Councillor, I led the City's first climate change adaptation plan, TransformTO.

The Liberal party will reverse funding cuts to Conservation Authorities, including our local Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. We will protect 30% of Ontario's land and water which involves safeguarding the Greenbelt. And we will triple the area of nature-protected areas in the Province.

Our water resources are critical. We will strengthen the Great Lakes Protection Plan and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. We will crackdown on oil and chemical spills, and penalize repeat offenders. We will protect drinking water sources, particularly in vulnerable and Indigenous communities, by enforcing source water protection plans.

## ANNA MICHAELIDIS, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

About Anna Michaelidis – Anna Michaelidis for Beaches-East York

What motivates you to run as a candidate in this election? What values would shape how you would take on the role of MPP?

As a mother and small business owner, I see increasing crime, homelessness, mental health and affordability crises are rampant in our communities. Enough is enough. We need a representative in Beaches-East York that will fight for our families and our communities.

People are tired of waiting for health care services - long waits in Emergency Rooms, waiting for specialist appointments, and waiting in outpatient clinics. We can see that healthcare workers are doing their best with the resources that they have at their disposal. What would your party do to adequately resource frontline healthcare professionals and to strengthen our public healthcare sector so that all have equitable, quality access to services?

Ontario PC's have committed to building and upgrading 50 hospitals across Ontario, and are nearing completion of a \$560 Million investment in Michael Garron Hospital in Beaches-East York. We have built 2 new doctors' colleges, a nurse college, and completed renovations of Mississauga, Peterborough, and Humber hospitals. Now we need to work with all levels of government to ensure we have adequate staff to provide patient care. That might mean working with federal government to permit the portability of degrees and streamline training of new healthcare professionals.

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What ideas would you champion to influence and effect change to positively impact our community?

Poverty in our community is heartbreaking and unjust. No one should suffer the way we've seen residents in our communities suffer. My office will designate a full time individual to immediately work with our community organizations to connect residents in need with the multitude of municipal, provincial, and federal programs and services to

support. I will also actively listen, act, and advocate on behalf of the community groups closest to our most vulnerable residents, and support this most important initiative.

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The Progressive Conservative party recognizes the need for affordable housing, and is calling on all levels of government to work together to address the problem.

As an MPP in the legislature, I will work hard to identify MPP colleagues from all parties that want to work together to make a difference in this area. We need to build a coalition of people with experience in this area, and a common desire to address it. My experience in advocacy, real estate, and government relations will be a major asset in tackling this initiative, and this is a matter I am particularly passionate about.

To expect For-Profit companies to do it out of the goodness of their hearts, is sadly foolhardy. I would rally City Council, the Mayor, advocacy groups, the federal and provincial governments, along with philanthropic organizations to recognize the urgent need and determine housing a human right nationally, and take steps to ensure a roof over every head in our riding. May our work over the next four years become a model for every other riding in our Country.

As faith groups, we see our whole planet as a gift from the Creator. We also recognise a duty of care for all plants and animals, as well as humanity, including our grandchildren's grandchildren. Climate change threatens Ontario and Beaches East York in many ways – from flooding to extreme temperatures, to emissions and impacts on different species. If you are elected, what focus will you bring to the issues in this riding?

My immediate Team and I see our life and planet, and all living things that inhabit it, the same way. We recognize our work is to take the gifts that have been bestowed upon us, and use them for the greater good, in service to one another, and Creation. I will personally work with the Minister of Energy and Electrification to ensure we are bringing online in Ontario the cleanest forms of energy possible. Our government has already moved forward on two major projects that will have a positive impact on emissions in our riding, them being the Ontario Line, and Eglinton Crosstown, transit projects. We expect these two major investments in our transit infrastructure will provide more accessible modes of public transit, which will mitigate and divert traffic from our Beaches-East York streets. We are also examining a much wider scope for bike lanes.

We need a system that works for cyclists, but also permits ambulances to get through. If we can work together to rethink and redesign an intelligent network for cyclists to get around, that will also reduce the amount of traffic on our roads, and thereby reduce emissions. I am also very open, and very willing, to participate in groups and discussions that will inform me on what we as a community can do better to achieve our common goals in this area, among others.

## **JACK PENNINGS, GREEN PARTY**

Jack Pennings, Green Candidate for Beaches-East York

What motivates you to run as a candidate in this election? What values would shape how you would take on the role of MPP?

I am motivated by values of economic fairness, community, dignity for all, and climate protection. The current government's story in all of these areas has been one of neglect. In our riding and elsewhere, the effects of this are not hard to see. In the face of the situation I think it's important to get busy and try to be part of the discussion and push for the right solutions.

My family have always said that they think I would be a good representative. If there is one issue that made me actually do it, it is the environment and how governments almost never deliver on climate and environmental matters. The solutions get watered down, mishandled, or outright sabotaged. I have always been a progressive voter but joined the Green Party of Ontario (GPO) because environmental protection is in the party's DNA.

I am relatively new to the GPO and have found that the party punches above its weight in generating solutions to our current problems. The 2025 platform gives me a sense of hope that the course we are now on can be corrected. I would urge anyone to have a look online at gpo.ca.

People are tired of waiting for health care services - long waits in Emergency Rooms, waiting for specialist appointments, and waiting in outpatient clinics. We can see that healthcare workers are doing their best with the resources that they have at their disposal. What would your party do to adequately resource frontline healthcare professionals and to strengthen our public healthcare sector so that all have equitable, quality access to services?

The 2025 GPO platform goes into quite a bit of depth in this area. Some of the items, among others, are:

- The recruitment of 3,500 more doctors through more medical school positions and more residencies for international medical graduates. This is to ensure that all have access to a family doctor within 3-5 years.
- Aiming to free up doctors from administrative demands and proposing to eliminate the practice of requiring employee sick notes for time off.
- Caring for the people who care for us: hiring more without improving working conditions is asking for a revolving door of overworked healthcare professionals. The
- GPO aims for salaries that are equitable and competitive for doctors, RNs, psychiatric nurses, and nurse practitioners. We aim to address PSW retention and recruitment

issues in targeting nearly 7,000 more of them by 2028.

- We aim to reverse the creeping privatization of services so that no-one is locked out of services that they need.
- We aim to make medical health services part of OHIP so that all have better access.

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What ideas would you champion to influence and effect change to positively impact our community?

The statistics cited in this question highlight once again the neglect of the current government.

Getting housing costs under control will help all boats to rise (see next question). Within an overall plan for housing, supportive housing is needed for those who are homeless now. Providing such help is among the top-priority items in the 2025 GPO platform.

The inadequacy of ODSP and Ontario Works benefits is stark. The benefit levels are plainly insufficient to meet the costs of living for people who depend on these programs. Mike Scheiner has famously described this as legislated poverty and the GPO firs proposes to least double the benefit levels in ODSP an OW..

Ontario's farmland is being removed at a rate of 300 acres per day according to the 2025 GPO platform. Even if it were less, say 200 per day, it is too much too fast. Looming tariffs promise to raise food prices; in times such as this protecting our local food supply becomes an even larger imperative. The GPO has long championed farmland protection.

There is a lot more that can be done. The 2025 GPO platform also proposes to:

- End grocery-company collusion practices that have led to high grocery prices;
- Focus tax cuts on low- and middle-income earners;
- Stop issuing hydro rebates to the wealthiest and instead redirect the funds to lower and middle-income families:

- Increase the minimum wage to \$20 and index it to inflation;
- End the WSIB practice of "deeming" or "determining", wherein injured-worker benefits are docked for income that they are not in fact earning.
- Extend rights and protections to gig workers that they do not have. For example, access can be granted to benefit programs they do not have now, and extend the same workplace protections.

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Addressing unaffordable housing is the top item for action in the 2025 GP platform. There platform is comprehensive in this area and is worth a look (at gpo.ca). Some of key items in the platform are to build 2 million homes province-wide within existing urban boundaries. The focus in on amending the Planning Act to 4-plexes and 6-plexes, removing current provincial support for both condos and urban sprawl.

Let's keep in mind that around half of the residents in Beaches-East York are tenants. The primary demand from tenants is to end above-guideline rent increases, which have allowed rents to climb relative to earnings over the years. The GPO platform promises to meet this demand. Many buildings in are deteriorating due to aging and I agree with strengthening the Rental Tenancies Act to ensure better safety and levels of good repair.

In the Ontario legislature I would work to support legislation and amendments that have been tabled by the Green Party in the recent past such as the Homes You Can Afford in Communities You Love Act

I have long been in favour of diverse, human-scale housing in communities. Density has become a popular idea but its meaning seems to have shifted toward Manhattan-style density, while the truly healthy density must now be qualified as "gentle density". It is this latter level of density which I support in order to promote community and reduce car dependence.

As faith groups, we see our whole planet as a gift from the Creator. We also recognise a duty of care for all plants and animals, as well as humanity, including our grandchildren's grandchildren. Climate change threatens Ontario and Beaches East York in many ways – from flooding to extreme temperatures, to emissions and impacts on different species. If you are elected, what focus will you bring to the issues in this riding?

Climate, species, and environmental protection are in the Green Party's DNA. As mentioned this is my reason for joining the GPO, where the best proposals for protecting our environment are

found. The local issues that I would most like to focus on and support are:

Mitigating the effects of the gas plant in the Portlands on air quality. The plant is now running 19 hours per day. My own daughter has a balcony view on the the exhaust cloud from this plant. The 2025 GPO platform proposes phasing out such plants by 2035, not building more of them.

Extreme rainfall events have resulted in flooding and water damage to homes in the riding. The GPO advocates for the protection of wetlands, not paving them over and overriding conservation authorities, as a means of preventing flood damage everywhere.

I would like to improve the connections between our urban riding and Ontario food producers, which we will need for as long as tariffs Impact food supply.