

Archie Campbell, President  
Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods  
33 Rochester St., Unit 6  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1R 7L3

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to speak to your organization's concerns. I am happy to respond on behalf of the Green Party of Ontario.

### **Affordable Housing**

We will continue to support the development of Canada's National Housing Strategy: A Place to Call Home.

We will also take further steps to make housing more affordable. We will require all new developments to have a minimum of 20% affordable units. And we will also invest an additional \$200 million over projected increases in the 2018 Provincial Budget in funding for shelters, social, co-op and supportive housing.

### **Child Care**

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, support for stay-at-home parents, and additional ECE supports.

### **Property taxes for cultural hubs**

Yes. We are supportive of tax policies that will allow relief for cultural hubs that are important in creating vibrant local communities.

### **Transportation**

Yes. We think that the downtown relief line in Toronto is a transit priority. We support increasing funding for public transit infrastructure by \$1 to \$1.5 billion per year over projections in the 2018 budget and will fund 50% of the operating costs of municipal transit systems.

### **Cycling**

We support establishing a permanent long-term sustainable funding stream for cycling and pedestrian infrastructure for all Ontario municipalities. We will dedicate 5% of the transportation budget for walking and cycling infrastructure, a total of \$2.18 billion over four years.

### **Protection and enlargement of the Greenbelt**

We support the permanent protection of the Greenbelt, as well as a 1.5 million acre expansion to include major river systems and source water regions in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

**OMB Reform**

Over the years, the GPO consistently called for an overhaul or the abolition of the OMB. We are supportive of restoring the role of municipalities in land-use planning decisions, but we are concerned that the reforms have not gone far enough to protect the people and places we love in our communities. We do support more regional offices to help communities prepare for hearings.

**Environmental Protection**

We need to strengthen rules to protect our environment to ensure the sustenance of our natural resources and wildlife for future generations.

We support the goal to be carbon neutral by 2050. To do this, we will invest in building retrofits to improve energy conservation efforts, invest in green infrastructure, work to phase out internal combustion engines, rapidly build and electrify public transit, incentivize low-carbon businesses and cleantech, support small community renewable energy projects, and set aggressive GHG targets. We have extensive plans to address climate change and you can read more about them in our Vision for Ontario at [www.gpo.ca/vision/planet](http://www.gpo.ca/vision/planet) and our platform at [www.gpo.ca/platform](http://www.gpo.ca/platform).

We support Forest Ontario's tree planting goals and will expand the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program to reward landowners for planting and protecting trees on their property.

**Election Reform**

Yes. We support using ranked ballots in municipal elections and proportional representation in provincial elections. We also support extending the right to vote in municipal and provincial elections to permanent residents so that they, too, can have a say in how their tax dollars are spent.

You can read more about our vision for Ontario at [www.gpo.ca/vision](http://www.gpo.ca/vision), and you can read our platform at [www.gpo.ca/platform](http://www.gpo.ca/platform). Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions.

Sincerely,  
Samantha Bird  
Director of Operations  
Green Party of Ontario