



**Green Party of Ontario**  
PO Box 1132 Station F Toronto, ON M4Y 2T8

Kristian Clarke  
Executive Director  
CARFAC Ontario  
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Toronto, ON  
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6 June 2014

Dear Kristian,

Thank you so much for giving the Green Party of Ontario (GPO) the opportunity to discuss our policies on matters that are important to PASO. I am pleased to respond on the GPO's behalf. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further questions.

**1. How will your party support youth employment in the Province through a robust community-driven training/internship strategy?**

*The Green Party of Ontario wants to help young people unleash their potential. We know that high youth unemployment is bad for health, bad for families, and bad for the economy.*

*Current efforts to curb youth unemployment ask employers what they want from young people. We want to change that. The Green Party's youth employment strategy starts by asking youth what they have to offer. Our party believes that the best way to unleash young people's potential is to harness their entrepreneurial spirit. The Green Party would do this by establishing a Social Innovation Fund: a series of grants, loans, and mentor networks to help young people develop innovative solutions to global problems.*

**Would you consider working with the educational sector to create a comprehensive apprenticeship program for real-world arts training that will help launch Ontario's next generation of arts professionals to the forefront of the creative industries?**

*The Green Party of Ontario would love to engage young people and the arts community in a conversation about how they could work together to create good jobs.*

**2. Can you confirm your party's commitment to the arts sector by increasing investment in the arts through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport -- and key agencies such as the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) and the Ontario Trillium Foundation -- to bring Ontario to the national average, a minimum of \$89 per capita? Ontario has nearly twice as many artists as any other province. Artists represent 0.81% of the overall provincial labour force, slightly higher than the Canadian average (0.77%). In 2009-10 Ontario had the second lowest per**

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**capita provincial government expenditures on culture. At \$62 it was \$27 less than the \$89 per capita national average, with only British Columbia dedicating less resources to culture.**

*We are proud of Ontario's wealth of artists- we want to preserve and enhance it. We understand that the arts and cultural communities need adequate funding in order to thrive, so we want to work with the community to develop a sustainable funding plan.*

**3. How will your party strengthen the Status of Ontario's Artists Act through a consultative process to better address the financial challenges of artistic creation? Artists are independent entrepreneurs and small business generators, hugely important to the vital creative economy. In 2007, the Ontario government took the bold step of introducing legislation that hoped to better recognize artists in this Province. The time has come for the next government to commit to consulting with the arts community and updating the Act so that it better guarantees reasonable compensation for the professional services that artists provide.**

*We completely agree that the best way to work with artists is through dialogue. By engaging the community in a discussion about its future, we can learn more about the challenges it faces and the support that it needs to generate opportunity for Ontarians. This is a necessary first step toward building a prosperous future for the arts community, and we're excited to take it.*

**4. How will your party address the value of the arts through increasing arts education in schools?**

*Our party wants to offer Ontario students the best education possible. We believe the arts play a valuable role in our schools, and we would like to use the benefits of the arts to help Ontario students grow into well-rounded, confident, intelligent adults.*

*We believe that the best way to support the arts in schools is to increase funding available to Ontario public schools. We want to do this by merging Ontario's four school boards into one board with French and English systems. Our estimates show that this could save over \$1 billion per year. That money could support arts and other programs in Ontario schools, and thereby provide increased access to new opportunities for Ontario students.*

**5. How will your party invest in adequate and affordable facilities for artists and arts organizations?**

*The Green Party of Ontario has several plans for generating revenue that could provide funding for artists and arts organizations. Along with merging Ontario's school boards, which could save over \$1 billion per year, we plan to import cheap hydro power from Quebec, which could save another \$1 billion per year.*

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*By engaging the arts community in a conversation about its needs and priorities, we can develop innovative solutions to the sector's problems. Using savings generated by Green Party policies, we can provide new sources of funding for important arts initiatives.*

Sincerely,

Jessica Higgins  
Policy Coordinator  
Green Party of Ontario

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