

Thank You Alan. Snowy Morning

I wish to acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional lands of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Today, Toronto is home to many indigenous people from across Turtle Island. I am grateful to have the opportunity to meet on this land and I acknowledge our role as stewards of this land for the next 7 generations.

As someone who grew up on a farm, my parents stressed to me the importance of stewardship.

My mom and dad taught me to care for the people and places that we love, to protect the farmland and water that sustains us and to serve my community.

Those rural values of family and community, stewardship and sustainability guide the decisions I make at Queen's Park.

Values that I know guide the important work you do.

I want to thank each and every one of you in this room and all municipal officials across the province for your service to your communities.

You have a partner in my office and you have a partner in the Green Party of Ontario.

Food and Water

A partner who will stand with you to defend our communities, to Protect the Water and Farmland that sustains us.

It's important that we take a minute to thank you to the many municipalities who told the Premier to keep Big Developers away from the Greenbelt.

And thank you to the thousands of citizens who said they want the Greenbelt protected,

that clean drinking water is not red tape.

Protecting farmland and water is essential to public health, the environment and the economy.

The food and farming sector employs over 800,000 people, contributing over \$40 billion to the province's economy.

It makes no sense to pave over the asset base of all that wealth, all those jobs.

That is why I not only will work hard to protect the Greenbelt, I am working hard to expand protections to prime farmland and source water regions.

We must defend the land and water that sustains.

And champion the profitability of the farmers that feed us.

A country that cannot feed itself is just as insecure as a country that cannot defend itself.

Mid-rise developments, inclusionary zoning, secondary suites and brownfield redevelopment provide lots of ways to build affordable housing without paving over farmland.

Economics

As a small business owner, I want to work with you to make sure our local businesses can thrive, to reduce paperwork, duplication and red tape. Healthy Local Food and Clean water are not red tape.

To prosper I believe we have to skate to where the puck is going, not where it has been.

The fastest growing sector of the global economy is the clean economy — a \$7 trillion per year economic opportunity that the Premier is actively walking away from.

Embracing the jobs of the future is critical to providing opportunities for young people from rural and remote communities to stay or return home.

I recently heard the story of a young man going back to college at age 32 to become an Electrician.

His name is Jonathan and he's worked in insurance and sales. But he wanted to make a difference back home.

He comes from Muskoka.

He chose to study renewable energy at Sheridan. Why? Because he said that he wants to go back to the country to help people get off the grid.

His family taught him self-reliance and he wants to help rural Ontarians be self-reliant today and tomorrow.

He sees where the puck is going.

Jonathan sees an Ontario where your truck is electric. As a matter of fact Ford—the motor company, not the government— just announced their first electric pick up this month.

The way Jonathan sees it, he will be able to charge his truck with solar panels much cheaper than with gas or diesel.

The truck will be a low cost mobile battery pack to power his tools for remote jobs.

He sees it as a way to save money and return to his rural roots while being a job creator in the new economy.

The clean economy, the innovation economy is NOT just a big city thing.

It's happening in the trades, on farms, in small businesses and rural communities across Ontario.

On our farm, we had to innovate every day. Solve problems, find solutions.

But we can't do that today if we aren't connected to fast, reliable, affordable broadband.

It's way past time when rural residents should be going cap in hand to different governments hoping to bring high speed internet and reliable connectivity to rural communities.

Living in rural Ontario is all about living in strong communities.

Keeping them strong means building better connections.

Greens will work with you and fight for you to have affordable, reliable access to broadband and the electricity grid of the 21st century.

Community and Infrastructure and Budgets

Greens also want to partner with you to invest in the public services your communities need.

We are calling on the government to amend the funding formula for rural hospitals and schools.

Rural residents deserve access to quality, public health care.

Seniors: Affordable housing and accessible health care

And Young rural families need access to schools close to home.

We are calling on the government to NOT cut funding for the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund and to release the 2019 funds now.

Predictable, Sustainable funding = long term planning, fiscally responsible asset management

To not short change communities by cutting funding for infrastructure, schools and health care.

Or to balance the budget on the backs of municipal property tax payers.

One tax payer

Shortchanging public services that people rely on is not the way to build communities that people want to live in.

Nor will it attract business investment from companies looking for skilled workers, connected communities, reliable infrastructure and a healthy environment.

Greens support a balanced approach to getting the provinces fiscal house in order.

We cannot cut our way to prosperity, nor can we mortgage our children's future.

Greens will look for ways to save money:

Placing reasonable limits on Municipal liabilities, for example, to reduce your insurance costs.

Or putting an end to the previous Liberal government's \$4 billion unfair hydro plan.

We will also look for new sources of revenue — reversing the tax cuts for the 1% and raising resource levies so we stop giving away our natural wealth.

High quality public services

Conclusion: Our Legacy

Liveable future

Climate Action and Adaptation

Insurance losses \$1.3 Billion last year.

Over \$350 per household first six months.