

## **EDUCATION DAY 2018 – Candidate Meeting Questions**

### **Introduction:** Moderator

Question: What are your party's priorities for Education in the Province of Ontario?

3 minutes per candidate – order to be determined by draw.

### **General:**

Question: What distinguishes your party's education platform from those of the other parties?

Question: How will your party's platform improve schools in Ontario? What strategies will be aimed specifically at Northern Ontario?

### **Funding:**

Statement: Declining enrollment in our schools has created significant problems across the province within our publicly funded education system.

Question: How will your party revise the education funding formula to ensure that school boards receive full and adequate funding to meet student needs?

Question: With the government increasing the pressure on school boards to consolidate facilities and close schools what will your party do to improve the existing Accommodation Review Process.

Question: How will your party ensure that special education funding needs continue to be met in all areas of the province?

Question: Why should ratepayers accept that the government funds the building of a new school for less than 100 students at a cost of over 10 million dollars in an area where there was already a shared use agreement in an existing facility between two different school boards, at the same time that they pressure Boards to close schools in areas where there is no other facility that can be shared simply because enrollment drops below 50 students.

### **Student Achievement and Well-Being:**

Question: What specific strategies will your party implement to increase student achievement and improve the learning environment for our indigenous students?

Questions: How will your party support the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and maintain the commitment to indigenous issues and history in our school curriculum.

Question: With constantly changing and evolving technology, how is your party going to support the needed infrastructure, hardware and curriculum focus to ensure that our students develop the skill sets to be successful in a highly connected, global work place?

Question: Studies have shown time and again how student participation in the Arts contributes to their success and well-being. How would your party protect this kind of programming in our schools?

Question: What is your party's position on standardized testing? How can we make improvements to the current EQAO system and what other tools would you support for measuring student achievement and the effectiveness of classroom instruction?

Question: With such a large focus placed on student well-being, and with the recognition that shorter ride times on the bus and parent and community involvement in the school are positive contributions to this well-being, how does your party plan to support the retention of our rural community schools?

Question: It is important that all children, youth and their families feel valued, included and respected in Ontario schools. What is your party's commitment to ensure that the principles of inclusive education are effectively implemented in Ontario schools?

Statement: Health and Physical Education is seen as a cornerstone to support healthy, active living for children and youth. The recent updates to the Health and Physical Education curriculum have introduced some much needed material to supplement home teachings and support and promote the understanding, tolerance, inclusion, and compassion that students require in today's very diverse society.

Question: How does your party's education platform address this important issue?

Question: What will your party do to support increased Daily Physical Activity in our learning environments?

### **Student Achievement and Well-Being – Northern Ontario:**

Statement: Through the efforts of Northern public school board trustees and the Ontario Public School Board Association, a great deal of work has been done in the last two years with the Ministry of Education to bring forward issues specific to our Northern student population. Graduation rates, child poverty, special needs assessments, declining population/enrollment are just a few examples of the concerns leading the conversation.

Question: Although Graduation rates in Northern Ontario schools have shown some improvement in some areas of the North, these rates are still below the provincial average. What supports would your government commit to in order to improve them?

Question: Although this next question addresses a province-wide concern, the challenges faced by Northern schools are intensified by large geography and lack of services. What will your party do to make sure that various ministries and community agencies will work together in an integrated way to help children and youth and their families get timely access to community based services to support health, mental health, and special education needs?

### **Labour Relations:**

Question: What do you see as some key issues for labour relations in the Education environment?

Question: In the recent past, bargaining between teachers and the ministry led to some negative impact on daily student life and quality of education. What will your party do to ensure that students are the focus of the next round of teacher negotiations?