

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WELFARE

[Bill C-15 \(Federal\)](#) and [Bill 76 \(Ontario\)](#) serve to establish in law [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#) aspirations, finally signed by Canada in 2016. However, centuries of colonialism and the Federal Indian Act have served to deny and erase basic human rights for our Indigenous peoples and have embedded institutional and structural racism in such a way that extreme problems still exist.



What are the Issues?

Indisputably, the major issues facing Indigenous peoples in Ontario include:

- the residual effects of residential schools (the [last of which closed in 1991 in Ontario](#)) including the recent spotlight on missing children and unmarked graves, including now at the [former Mohawk Institute](#)
- the continued removal of indigenous children from their parents to be placed in foster care. According to 2016 Census, [Indigenous children](#) make up 7.7% of the child population but 52.2% of children in foster care.
- the overrepresentation of [indigenous women murdered](#) or suffering from [domestic violence](#).
- the elimination of funding for the protection of [endangered wildlife](#) and natural resources,
- the [lack of safe drinking water](#) in many indigenous communities,
- [disregard for treaty rights](#)
- disregard for Indigenous [wellness, culture and material poverty](#).
- approximately [22,000 additional subsidized Indigenous community housing units are needed](#) over the next 10 years to meet the current and future housing needs of Indigenous Ontarians

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WELFARE Key Message

Institutional and structural racism specifically affecting Ontario's Indigenous populations must be disassembled. The Ontario government must consider all legislation reform through an Indigenous lens and UNDRIP's direction and move to alleviate inequalities through implementation of the TRC's and the MMIWG's recommendations.

Questions for Candidates

1. What specific actions will you/your party take to implement the recommendations of the TRC and Inquiry into MMIWG here in Ontario?
2. How will you/your party consult, accommodate, and obtain consent from Indigenous Peoples in relation to treaty rights, land rights, and environmental stewardship in Ontario?
3. What immediate actions will you/your party take to deal with the number of children in foster care?

Despite claims to the contrary, Ontario is not doing more for indigenous peoples than ever before. Ontario's auditor general says the provincial government has "[no coordinated approach](#)" to delivering Indigenous programs and services (Dec.2020). This report, [Indigenous Affairs in Ontario](#), the finding of unmarked graves, the reports of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) and the [National Inquiry of Murdered and Missing Women and Girls](#), plus many other exposés over the years have forced us to recognize the unfair and continuing oppression of Indigenous people and take action.

Intersectional (linked) issues which may have priority in your riding/municipality include MMIWG, VAW/GBV, UNDRIP, Residential Schools, TRC, Jordan's Principle, Treaty Rights.