



Candidate Report Card

Prepared by Escarpment Corridor Alliance

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The Escarpment Corridor Alliance (ECA) has been closely tracking the party promises for the upcoming Ontario provincial election for environmental and planning policy relevant to the South Georgian Bay region. Focusing on the ridings of Simcoe–Grey and Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound, ECA has sought meetings with the candidates for the leading parties – and has had the chance to meet with the PC Party and Ontario Liberal Party candidates for both ridings. ECA is still seeking meetings with the NDP and Green candidates.

With the numerous parties running in this election, we've focused on the top four based on last election's results and current polling, but we encourage voters to look at all parties and, of course, do their own additional research.

ECA will be updating this report card throughout the election as parties put out new platform planks, and local candidates make statements and promises. Please continue to check our website for the most up-to-date information.

Simcoe–Grey Riding

Allan Kuhn, Green Party of Ontario

- *Party Platform (A+)*: The GPO plan promises to achieve real net-zero emissions by 2045 including by making Ontario's electricity grid emissions free. They are committed to investing in the clean economy to attract jobs, retrofit buildings, manufacture EVs, supporting agriculture, and preserving nature as the best defence against climate change.
- *Meetings with the ECA (A+)*: We connected with Kuhn for an insightful conversation. As we anticipated, our mission and his vision for the area align. He's supportive of our goals, and vice-versa!
- *Candidate Commitments (A+)*: The Simcoe–Grey Greens [posted on Twitter](#) that they fully support the ECA's work and are happy to lend political support to our goals!
- *Other (A-)*: Kuhn trained as an Organic Market Gardener. His online presence shows that Allan wants to work with all stakeholders to take immediate and effective action to crush climate pollution. He seems to be outdoorsy, posting articles about tree planting.
- **Overall Grade: A+**

Brian Saunderson, Progressive Conservative Party

- *Party Platform (C)*: The PC plan to reduce harmful emissions relies heavily on getting more electric vehicles on the road along with their Ring of Fire rare-earth mineral mining strategy. They have promised to create one new provincial park and, last year, to expand the Greenbelt to offset their MZOs for developments.
- *Meetings with ECA (A)*: Brian has met with the ECA multiple times, [including a filmed interview](#), and agreed with mission to protect the area's green spaces through "densification not deforestation."
- *Candidate Commitments (A)*: Brian sat down with ECA to ensure his personal commitment to the environment and sustainability, especially in this riding, [is on the record in an interview with ECA](#). Should he be elected, ECA will hold him to it.



- *Other (B+)*: Brian was the only PC Party candidate to be endorsed by GreenPAC, largely due to his environmental record as Mayor of Collingwood. Only 13 candidates in the province received this endorsement. He has stressed that he's personally an environmentalist and active in the region's famed outdoor recreation.
- **Overall Grade: A-**

Ted Crysler, Ontario Liberal Party

- *Party Platform (B+)*: The Liberal plan promises to create five new provincial parks and protect 30% of Ontario's land, including by expanding the Greenbelt. They're also supporting electric vehicles through an \$8,000 tax credit and \$1,500 for the needed charging equipment. Additionally, the Liberals would ban single-use plastic by 2030 and plant 800 million trees.
- *Meetings with ECA (A-)*: [Ted has met with the ECA a couple of times](#) and has stated he is aligned with our Mission.
- *Candidate Commitments (A-)*: Ted has made supportive comments on ECA's social media page about sustainable development being a key priority for the riding. He has also made a short video on social media talking about the importance of the natural environment to the South Georgian Bay area. In meetings and letters to residents, he's iterated his support for ECA's Mission, the region's environment, and protecting our natural heritage from inappropriate development.
- *Other (B+)*: Ted seems to have a genuine desire to protect the Escarpment in our region and says he could not be more personally committed to it. He has also met with other local environment groups aligned with ECA's mission.
- **Overall Grade: B+/A-**

Keith Nunn, New Democratic Party ***

- *Party Platform (B)*: The NDP has promised to plant 1 billion trees by 2030. They will commit to net-zero emissions by 2040 in Ontario and reintroduce a cap-and-trade system. Like the other parties, they would provide incentives for zero-emissions vehicle purchases and expand the Greenbelt. Additionally, the NDP would provide assistance to homeowners making energy-efficient retrofits on their property. Lastly, they would ban non-medical single-use plastic by 2024.
- *Meetings with ECA (N/A)*: The candidate has yet to meet with ECA, however, we are willing to at any time!
- *Candidate Commitments (D)*: There have been no public commitments from this candidate.
- *Other (B+)*: Keith seems like an avid outdoorsman, and we look forward to hearing about it when he meets with the ECA.
- **Overall Grade: C+ (but we'd love to meet with Keith to hear about his commitment to the environment in this riding, and will update the report card accordingly.)**

*** Indicates a candidate who has not yet met with ECA



Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound Riding

Danielle Valiquette, Green Party of Ontario ***

- *Party Platform (A)*: The GPO plan promises to achieve real net-zero emissions by 2045 including by making Ontario's electricity grid emissions free. They are committed to investing in the clean economy to attract jobs, retrofit buildings, manufacture EVs, supporting agriculture, and preserving nature as the best defence against climate change.
- *Meetings with ECA (N/A)*: The candidate has yet to meet with ECA, however, we are willing to do so at any time!
- *Candidate Commitments (B)*: There have been no public commitments from this candidate, however, in previous campaigns and roles she has shown herself to be a strong environmental advocate.
- *Other (A)*: Danielle is a municipal councillor in Grey Highlands who seems passionate about the Green party, their mission, and the BGOS riding. Danielle's council positions relate to her environmental commitment and she's a graduate of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Climate Leadership Course. In 2019, she ran as the federal candidate in Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound for the Green Party of Canada. We're really looking forward to hearing more when we meet!
- **Overall Grade: A- (We'd love to meet with Danielle to hear about her commitment to the environment in this riding, and will update the report card accordingly.)**

Selwyn "Buck" Hicks, Ontario Liberal Party

- *Party Platform (B+)*: The Liberal plan promises to create five new provincial parks and protect 30% of Ontario's land, including by expanding the Greenbelt. They're also supporting electric vehicles through an \$8,000 tax credit and \$1,500 for the needed charging equipment. Additionally, the Liberals would ban single-use plastic by 2030 and plant 800 million trees.
- *Meetings with ECA (A-)*: Hicks had an extended meeting with ECA, and pledged to have further meetings. He seemed receptive to our mission, and we look forward to our next discussion.
- *Candidate Commitments (C-)*: Buck has not made public any commitments beyond the Liberal Party platform, but his desire to meet again with ECA indicates a willingness to do so!
- *Other (A-)*: Hicks is the Warden of Grey County and was part of the team that declared a Climate Emergency, and developed a climate action plan for the county. He is personally an environmentalist and regular canoe tripper in Ontario. He enjoys portages and getting deep into nature.
- **Overall Grade: B+**

Rick Byers, Progressive Conservative Party

- *Party Platform (C)*: The PC plan to reduce harmful emissions relies heavily on getting more electric vehicles on the road and is complimented by their Ring of Fire rare-earth mineral strategy. They have promised to create one new provincial park and, last year, to expand the Greenbelt to offset their MZO's for developments.
- *Meetings with ECA (B+)*: Byers was generous and quick to accept the ECA offer to meet, but clear that he would listen to all sides. At the time of the initial meeting he had limited knowledge of the controversial sale of the Talisman Public Lands to a developer, but, in conversations since, has demonstrated a deeper understanding of the issue.



- *Candidate Commitments (B)*: While Byers would not make any commitment to our mission or goals, he did commit to looking into the Talisman issue we raised – and he proved a man of his word. In a subsequent discussion, Byers was well briefed and had clearly done his own homework on Talisman. Should he be elected, we look forward to continuing those productive conversations!
- *Other (B-)*: Byers is very active in the community and has been an advocate for the riding. However, we wish environmental issues placed higher on his agenda!
- **Overall Grade: B**

Karen Gventer, New Democratic Party ***

- *Party Platform (B)*: The NDP has promised to plant 1 billion trees by 2030. They will commit to net-zero emissions by 2040 in Ontario and reintroduce a cap-and-trade system. Like the other parties, they would provide incentives for zero-emissions vehicle purchases and expand the Greenbelt. Additionally, the NDP would provide assistance to homeowners making energy-efficient retrofits on their property. Lastly, they would ban non-medical single-use plastic by 2024.
- *Meetings with ECA (N/A)*: The candidate has yet to meet with ECA, however, we are willing to at any time!
- *Candidate Commitments (C-)*: There have been no public commitments from this candidate during this election cycle, however, in previous campaigns and roles she has shown herself to be an environmental advocate.
- *Other (B-)*: Karen's social media seems to show a strong commitment to the environment and the riding. We look forward to hearing more when we meet with her!
- **Overall Grade: C+ (but we'd love to meet with Karen to hear about her commitment to the environment in this riding, and will update the report card accordingly.)**

*** Indicates a candidate who has not yet met with ECA