

OSSTF/FEESO Candidate Questionnaire: Lambton-Kent-Middlesex Provincial By-election

Candidate's Name	Cathy Burghardt-Jesson
Political Party:	Ontario Liberal Party
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Social Media Accounts (if applicable):	Facebook , Twitter
What do you think are the top issues facing public education in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex and how do you intend to address them?	Class size, teacher shortage and needs of students in special education, school infrastructure. Some of the answers to this are repeated below. We will establish ratios for students and teachers/EW's to ensure support and supervision is adequate and appropriate for all students. We will do this in consultation and collaboration with teachers and academic experts. WE will implement a recruitment strategy for all educators and ensure retention by adopting wellbeing initiatives to improve mental health and reduce burnout. We will invest in schools by spending on overdue maintenance and repairs. We will prioritize state of the art upgrades in schools (HVAC, air conditioning, internet upgrades)
What will your government do to improve student learning conditions in the public education system in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex?	We will deliver on small class sizes and enhanced in-person learning. We will do this by increasing the number of trained ECE's. We are committed to a full wage review to ensure our ECE's are properly compensated. We will establish mandatory standards for ratios between students and teachers/EW's to ensure that every student gets the support and supervision required in a classroom. We will recruit more teachers by revamping the degree process and offering them better wages that are negotiated through free, fair, inclusive and equitable collective bargaining processes. Understanding that LKM is a rural riding, it will be part of a strategy we will undertake to understand and respond to the unique needs of teachers, EW's and students in our rural and more remote communities. Physically we will prioritize state of the art upgrades to schools, and invest in school infrastructure to catch up on overdue repairs and maintenance ...which we know threatens the health and safety of our students.
What will you do to ensure schools are centres of the community that meet students' physical and mental health needs, in particular our Indigenous,	WE will begin by establishing a comprehensive special needs and mental health strategy that identifies and delivers the wraparound services

<p>exceptional, and at-risk students?</p>	<p>and supports needed at every school. This will include, but not be limited to; recruiting and retaining teachers and educational workers who have specialized in helping children with learning disabilities; hire new psychologists, social and educational workers so that students with IEP's can be appropriately supported. We will keep students IN classrooms where they can ensure their educational and social development is maximised. We'll deliver a culturally sensitive curriculum that incorporates Indigenous knowledge and perspectives and adopt an equity centred approach responsive to the varied challenges many students face. We will ensure the fees for use of facilities are kept to a reasonable level, to ensure these facilities are open, accessible for the community to use.</p>
<p>Please feel free to provide any additional information about your candidacy in relation to public education in the space below.</p>	<p>As an MPP I will be an advocate for the accessibility and equity of a public education for all. I will advocate for the needs of our rural communities and ensure that our schools are safe spaces for students and teachers. I will work to ensure that those working in education are supported not only for their success, but for the success of all.</p>