

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

Candidate's Name	Kathryn Shailer
Political Party:	Ontario NDP
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What do you think are the top issues facing public education in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex and how do you intend to address them?	School boards across Ontario, and particularly in rural communities, are facing the results of years of underfunding from this government. We are seeing particular pressures in a lack of investments into special education, student transportation and staff retention. The lack of funding means crowded classrooms, a lack of teachers and education workers, and insufficient mental health supports, and our children are paying the price every day. Addressing issues in education means funding that keeps up with inflation and invests in schools to ensure that every child has equal access to education, with the supports they need to succeed.
What will your government do to improve student learning conditions in the public education system in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex?	An ONDP government will increase base funding for education, fix the broken student transportation formula, and invest in special education. We will work with teachers, education workers, administrators, trustees, and parents to ensure that we have a system that works, that respects the people who support our children every day and provides children the supports and resources they need and deserve.
What will you do to ensure schools are centres of the community that meet students' physical and mental health needs, in particular our Indigenous, exceptional, and at-risk students?	The ONDP will do this by reversing the government's "one-size-fits-all" approach to education funding and legislation, allowing school boards to properly run their schools in a way that reflects the cultural diversity of the region. The ONDP will ensure that the student funding formula adequately addresses the needs of exceptional and at-risk students, allowing schools to offer programming that not only meets the needs of students, but gives them the opportunities to thrive.
Please feel free to provide any additional information about your candidacy in relation to public education in the space below.	Kathryn has an extensive educational background, and has been in leadership roles in various Canadian post-secondary institutions. She

	<p>has been championing public education throughout her career. She is now running to be your Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP to continue fighting for more investments in the public services and public education small rural communities rely on and deserve.</p>
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