

1. Yes. The Green Party of Ontario will support a ban on neonicotinoids. We have repeatedly called on the government to ban the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds that scientists have blamed for colony collapse, until peer-reviewed scientific research can prove otherwise. We will continue to advocate for this ban whether elected or not.

We recognize that the decline of the insect pollinator population is an urgent environmental problem with even more widespread ramifications. Insect pollinators are integral to our global food system and the global and local economies cannot function without them. We firmly believe that the provincial and federal governments should not put our food supply and our local economy at risk by failing to protect insect pollinators.

If elected, we would invest in research studies on pollinator-friendly farming techniques and in supporting farmers and beekeepers adversely affected by loss of pollinators. We continue to believe that is essential that we have a thorough understanding of what is causing the decline of bee populations.

2. Endangered species are not luxuries. By the Ministry of the Environment's own estimations, Ontario's ecosystems provide \$84 billion a year worth of services. Endangered species live in habitats that help clean the air and water, provide us with food and fuel, and offer us great opportunities for recreation. We can't afford to lose them.

The Green Party strongly supports funding for programs that provide environmental goods and services payments for farmers who protect and enhance species habitats. We also support safe harbour legislation for farmers.

We are opposed to the Liberal government gutting of the Endangered Species Act. Behind closed doors, Kathleen Wynne's cabinet added a raft of exemptions to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Liberals have put the profits of developers, gravel pit owners, and mining companies ahead of the places we love and the lives of the creatures with whom we share Ontario.

The Green Party of Ontario is the only provincial party to object to the changes to the ESA. We're also alone in standing up against the aggregate industry and demanding a stronger Aggregate Resources Act. And we are the only party to have signed the Food and Water First Pledge. We will commit ourselves to renewing the Endangered Species Act and to reversing the exemptions that have recently been made by the Liberal government.

3. Yes. The GPO supports measures that will protect the people and places that we love and therefore will ensure that the protection measures provided by these plans are upheld in the 2015 review.

4. Yes. The Green Party of Ontario supports making First Nations “full partners” in the process of developing the Ring of Fire chromite deposit in northwestern Ontario, even though those leaders oppose building the facility’s chromite smelter in Sudbury.

We must ensure that all development on First Nations land and affecting First Nations people will benefit First Nations and all Ontarians. We will also study carefully the health and environmental impacts of any development and be transparent about them. The government’s job is to ensure that the development and extraction of natural resources benefits all Northerners including First Nations.

We believe that we must address three key issues before beginning development on any site in northern Ontario: 1) We will implement a Sustainable Development Plan that maximizes economic benefits while protecting health and the environment; 2) We will engage First Nations in the decision making process in order to acquire their consent and partnership in development; 3) We will ensure that all value-added processing is done in Northern communities.

The GPO will ensure that all development of northern Ontario’s land and natural resources is done in a fiscally and environmentally responsible manner that takes into account First Nations interests.

5. Yes. The Green Party will work with private landowners, conservation authorities and municipalities to implement Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy. It is essential that Ontario protect our natural heritage and ecosystems.

In addition, we will introduce legislation to permanently protect Ontario’s Class 1 farmland and source-water regions. We will make sure the land and water that sustains us now is reserved for future generations.