

**YASIR
NAQVI**

Libéral. Leader.

Français plus bas

Restoring the promise of public education in Ontario

Yasir Naqvi releases practical, Liberal plan to fix public education and restore the promise of Ontario

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Ontario's public education system used to be something parents, educators and kids believed in – until Premier Doug Ford got his hands on it.

From kindergarten to Grade 12, our kids are struggling in overcrowded classrooms that are too hot in summer and too cold in winter. Our apprenticeship programs are failing to retain students. And too many college and university grads are burdened with heavy student debt.

The status quo under Ford is not good enough – not for students or teachers.

“Ontarians believe deeply in public education. It’s the foundation of the promise of Ontario,” said Yasir Naqvi, candidate for Ontario Liberal Party leader. “But as I travel the province, I hear about parents who are squeezing every penny to pay for a tutor, about folks taking out second and third mortgages to afford private school for a child with special needs who’s being left behind in a public school classroom.”

“That’s not the Ontario I believe in, and I won’t stand by as Doug Ford sells out public education to creeping privatization,” Naqvi said. “I will rebuild our public education system so parents no longer feel to need to resort to private tutors and schools.”

Nor will Yasir stand for Conservatives playing dangerous dog-whistle politics with our children and our schools.

“Nothing is more important than the safety and wellness of our children. Schools must be a safe and inclusive space focussed on learning,” said Naqvi. “Kids are not pawns, and politicians should not play political games with education policy and curriculum development in Ontario.”

A Yasir Naqvi-led government will challenge the status quo and focus on three key planks to fix public education and restore the promise of Ontario:

1. Fix K-12 so that the public system is better than private schools, and parents will no longer feel the need to pay exorbitant fees to educate their kids.

Yasir Naqvi will restore confidence in public education, support our educators and eliminate the need for parents to pay for private tutors and schools. He will:

- **introduce hard caps in class sizes** – no more than 15 for junior and senior kindergarten, fewer than 20 students in classes up to grade 8, and a maximum of 25 students per class in high school – with real enforcement.
- **commit to an early childhood educator (ECE) or a Special Educator in every classroom** up to Grade 8, depending on the needs of the students.
- address the embarrassing \$16.8B backlog and **bring all our schools to a proper state of repair** by the end of his first four years in government.
- **bring high-speed internet and air conditioning** to every school in Ontario.
- **reform the curriculum** to bring real-life skills into the classroom, including **civics education in every grade**, real **financial literacy**, **coding classes throughout K-12**, bringing back **home economics and shop** classes, and more experiential learning and career counselling.

Yasir believes that education policy and curriculum must be developed by experts, not politicians – guided by consultations with educators, parents and students.

2. Make postsecondary tuition free for those with a family income under \$90,000, cap international student tuition fees, and reinvest in colleges and universities.

One of the most shameful things Ford did when he took office was rip away free tuition from thousands of Ontarians who needed it most.

Yasir will **restore a free tuition program in Ontario for those with a family income under \$90,000 per year** and increase **support for everyone with a household income under \$200,000 per year**.

Yasir will improve post-secondary education by:

- **eliminating interest on provincial student loans, capping monthly loan servicing** payments at 5 per cent of a graduate's income and **deferring repayment** until the graduate earns over \$50,000 per year.
- **putting a cap on international student tuition** at its current rate for five years, creating regulations to curb future increases, **working with federal partners to cut red tape for off-campus work** and improving the system's integrity.
- **increasing operating grants for postsecondary institutions** for the first time in over ten years to make up for lost revenue from tuition caps.
- **increasing funding for undergraduate and graduate research**, so that more young scholars can look to research as a sustainable pathway;
- **improving pathways from school to work with more funding for co-op programs**, ensuring provincial employers increase their participation and increasing incentives to employers in clean energy industries as well as in rural and northern employers to encourage students to settle in all regions.

3. Revamp pathways and access to trades to create the workforce of the future.

A Yasir Naqvi-led government will position the skilled trades as a pathway to employment equal to college or university degrees by:

- **improving financial supports for apprentices**, including looking to shift supports to up-front financial aid, instead of credits and deductions.
- **enhancing training and financial support for journeypersons** who take on apprentices, so they are better positioned to pass on knowledge.
- **helping small businesses take on more apprentices**, by making it easier for them to find, hire and support the workers they need.

See also : Policy Backgrounder: Restoring the promise of public education in Ontario

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