

ONTARIO ELECTION 2018: PARTY POSITIONS ON SUPPORT FOR LIBRARIES

	LIBERAL (2018 Ontario Budget)		NDP (2018 NDP Platform)		PC		GREEN	
Category	Commitment	What Does it Mean?	Commitment	What Does it Mean?	Commitment	What Does it Mean?	Commitment	What Does it Mean?
Support for Local Public Libraries	<p>Increase the Ontario Public Library Grant by \$51 million over three years</p> <p><i>“Public libraries are increasingly embracing their role as community hubs, providing access to free information, programs and services across a range of areas...That is why Ontario is increasing the Public Library Operating Grant by \$51 million over three years”</i></p> <p>Source: 2018 Ontario Budget, p.143</p>	<p>In the 2018 Ontario Budget, the Liberals proposed significant additional funding support for public libraries – the first increase to the Public Libraries Operating Grant (PLOG) in over 20 years.</p> <p>This increased funding represents \$17 million in increased funding over three years.</p> <p>Beyond that time, the increased funding would have to be extended or would revert to pre-Budget 2018 levels.</p>	<p>Unfreeze library budgets with \$1 million annual investment</p> <p><i>“We will work with librarians, library boards and information experts to improve library systems across Ontario”</i></p> <p>Source: Change for the Better (2018 Ontario NDP Platform), p.69</p>	<p>The NDP platform proposes to index the Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG) to inflation, ensuring that library funding will increase alongside inflation and prevent future loss in value.</p> <p>However, the NDP platform does not include the additional \$17 million annual PLOG funding from the 2018 Ontario Budget and instead reduces public library funding to the lower pre-2018 baseline.</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Increase the Ontario Public Library Grant from \$33 million to \$50 million annually, with future increases tied to inflation</p> <p><i>“I encourage your government to support the Ontario Library Association’s request for a funding increase for public and First Nations libraries from \$33 million to \$50 million for 2018 with subsequent increases in line with the Consumer Price Index.”</i></p> <p>Source: Letter from Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner to Minister Daiene Vernile, February 13, 2018</p>	<p>Although not included in the Green Party platform itself, this letter articulates the Green Party’s endorsement of OLA & FOPL’s pre-Budget request, with the additional inclusion of tying future funding to inflation.</p> <p>In effect, it combines the positions adopted by the Liberal Party and NDP.</p>

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Support for Ontario Digital Public Library	<p>\$28 million over three years</p> <p><i>"...Ontario will invest \$28 million over three years to create a provincial Digital Public Library that provides access to digital content..."</i></p> <p>Source: 2018 Ontario Budget, p.143</p>	<p>In the 2018 Ontario Budget, the Liberals proposed a significant injection of funding to create a provincially-managed suite of digital resources available to all public and First Nations libraries.</p> <p>The proposed funding was to create the proposed Digital Public Library. No details were provided as to ongoing operating funding.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A