



## SUN SCARBOROUGH CANDIDATE INFO FLASHCARD

Created to help voters learn more about the Candidates so they can make informed decisions!

**2026 FEDERAL ELECTION Day is Monday, APRIL 13, 2026**

Advance voting days: Friday, April 3; Saturday, April 4; Sunday, April 5 and Monday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. local time (EDT)

Election day: Monday, April 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. (local time)

For information on ALL the candidates, who can vote, how to vote and where to vote, go to Elections Canada website at [By-election in Scarborough Southwest \(ON\) – Elections Canada](#)

**SUN wants to help you get to know the Candidates!**

**Your voice matters, get to know your candidates and make an informed decision!**

| GREEN PARTY OF CANADA<br>Pooja Malhotra  | LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA<br>Doly Begum   | NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA<br>Fatima Shaban                                      |
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| Website: <a href="https://www.green-ssw.ca/">https://www.green-ssw.ca/</a>         | Website: <a href="https://dolybegum.liberal.ca">https://dolybegum.liberal.ca</a>    | Website: <a href="https://www.fatimashaban.ca/">https://www.fatimashaban.ca/</a>     |

**We asked Scarborough Candidates the SAME 6 FEDERALY focused questions.**

SUN's expectation is that all levels of government need to collaborate and invest our taxes effectively and efficiently for the best possible outcome.

**Read responses to the 6 QUESTIONS** captured in this **INFO FLASH CARD** to **LEARN** what each candidate had to say.

**Housing Affordability & Cost of Living**

**COMMENT:** Scarborough Southwest continues to see rising rents, overcrowding, and pressure on affordable housing. As well, illegal Multi Tenanted Houses (MTH) is a huge issue, and is a major reason why young people have been priced out of the real estate market. All have plagued our riding with no action from any level of government to address this and who all have a role to play, starting with the Feds.

**QUESTION1:**

- A. How would you align federal housing and immigration policies to ensure both newcomers and long-time residents in this community can access affordable, stable housing?**
- B. And what actions would you take at the federal level to address speculative investment, including investor-owned and illegal multi-tenanted housing?**

**GREEN PARTY OF CANADA - Pooja Malhotra**

**PART A:**

As MP, I would:

- Push for **maintaining responsible immigration levels** while we **build the infrastructure to support** it. At the same time, we need immigration policies that are rooted in humanity, not politics—any knee jerk reactions can cause irreparable harm to the immigrant community, one that makes up a large portion of Scarborough.
- Advocate for immigration targets to be thoughtful, transparent, and aligned with Canada's real capacity and long-term planning, for both temporary and permanent immigration.
- Push for **colleges and universities** approved to host international students to **include accurate cost of living and housing information such as on-campus costs, local vacancy rates, average rents, etc.**, in acceptance letters to any incoming students.
- Push for **expansion of housing co-operatives** by working with the CMHC to scale up deeply affordable, community-owned homes.
- Advocate for an **end to preferential tax treatment for REITs**.
- Work towards making any federal funding for housing to be contingent on an increased percentage of affordable units in any new developments.
- Propose legislation that makes **housing a fundamental human right**, with federal policies and funding prioritising those most in need.

An average immigrant, just trying to get by, isn't driving the housing crisis; it's the financialized landlords and consistent under-funding that are responsible for it. By aligning our housing and immigration policies around the goal of stable, dignified homes for everyone, we can work towards achieving this balance.

Speculation and financialization have turned housing into a profit machine, and the federal government has stood on the sidelines for too long. Statistics Canada shows that over 80% of property owners own one property, and only 2% are businesses. That means the damage is concentrated in large rental buildings. REITs and private equity buy entire apartment towers, renovate, and raise rents.

#### **PART B:**

As MP, I would:

- Advocate for an **end to preferential tax treatment** for REITs. They are currently taxed at a lower rate than regular corporations—a subsidy that encourages them to treat housing as a speculative asset.
- Push for a **right of first refusal for non-profits and co-ops**. Using the Canada Rental Protection Fund, community housing providers would have the first chance to buy when an affordable building comes up for sale, keeping rents in check.
- **Work with the province and the city to strengthen protections against renovation evictions**. I acknowledge that the Ford government had tried to remove tenant protections from rental agreements but backed down after massive pushback from Ontarians. I would work towards tying federal funding to stronger provincial and municipal tenant protections.
- Acknowledge that **illegal multi-tenant housing exists because people have nowhere affordable to go**. I would work with the city to enforce safety standards while expanding non-market housing, so no one is forced into an unsafe arrangement.
- Push for a **permanent ban on foreign ownership of residential real estate**. The temporary ban must be made permanent to prevent speculative international investors from further distorting Canada's housing market.
- Propose legislation to **close loopholes that allow foreign capital** to flow into Canadian real estate.

Note: A Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) is a company that owns, operates, or finances income-producing real estate, allowing individuals to invest in commercial properties—such as apartments, warehouses, and hospitals—through stock market shares.

### **LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA - Doly Begum**

#### **PART A:**

Over the last eight years and more recently the last number of weeks, I've had the opportunity to speak with thousands of members in our community about housing affordability and the cost of living - and I know that's something we need to deliver on.

Over the past year, the new Liberal Government has taken real, targeted action to tackle the housing pressures Canadians have been facing by implementing measures that will increase housing supply and bring down costs.

In the fall of last year, the Government of Canada launched Build Canada Homes — a new federal agency that will accelerate construction, unlock public land, and drive new homebuilding — especially for purpose-built, affordable rentals.

More recently, the government has introduced a new bill, Bill C-25, proposing to immediately invest \$1.7 billion to increase housing supply across provinces and territories by reducing barriers to building, such as development fees and housing taxes.

We're also seeing critical housing investments made right here in Scarborough Southwest. In October, the federal government made an investment of over \$291 million for the construction of 705 rental housing units - 256 of which were dedicated as affordable - at 777 Victoria Park Avenue. The development will include large indoor and outdoor amenity spaces, a licensed daycare, a community room, and retail space.

And in November, the government committed \$137 million to the construction of 245 secure rental homes at 2 Dunelm Street. This new building will include a mix of studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom apartments.

At the same time, immigration levels have recently been adjusted, which will help ease some of the pressures we face in the housing market.

For communities like ours, this balanced approach is critical — more homes being built, smarter growth, and a clear plan to ensure both newcomers and long-time residents can find safe, secure, and affordable housing.

**PART B:**

The federal government has taken action in recent years to address speculative investment in housing, particularly from foreign buyers, while focusing more broadly on increasing supply - actions which I am supportive of.

A key measure has been the foreign homebuyer ban, which prohibits most non-Canadians living outside of Canada from purchasing residential property. This policy, now extended to 2027, has helped reduce speculative demand and ensure more homes are available for people living and working in Canada.

On multi-tenant housing, I will work with partners at the municipal and provincial orders of government to ensure that the concerns that members of our community have are heard and listened to. Issues regarding zoning and multiplexes are managed at those orders, but I will always consult with and champion the perspectives of my constituents when those decisions are being taken.

**NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA - Fatima Shaban**

**PART A:**

Scarborough Southwest is experiencing the consequences of a housing system that has not kept pace with demand. Rising rents, overcrowding, and the growth of multi tenanted housing reflect a deeper shortage of affordable, stable homes.

From a federal perspective, we need to treat housing as a human right. That means significantly increasing investment in non market housing, including co ops and purpose built rentals, so people have real affordable options. It also means strengthening protections for renters to prevent displacement and reduce the pressure that leads to overcrowding.

On immigration, it is important to be clear that newcomers are not the cause of the housing crisis, but they are often among those most affected. The federal government must better align immigration planning with housing and infrastructure investments by working closely with provinces and municipalities. As we welcome new residents, we must ensure that funding for housing, transit, and settlement services keeps pace with population growth.

We also need targeted support for municipalities to address multi tenanted housing by setting clear standards for safety and habitability, while investing in long term housing solutions that reduce the need for these arrangements in the first place.

This requires coordination and leadership. The federal government must step up with sustained investment and clear accountability so that both newcomers and long time residents in Scarborough Southwest can access safe, stable, and affordable housing.

**PART B:**

Speculative investment has shifted housing away from being a place to live and toward being a vehicle for profit, and communities like Scarborough Southwest are seeing the consequences. Investor-owned properties and poorly regulated multi tenanted housing are driving up costs, reducing available supply, and contributing to unsafe and overcrowded living conditions.

At the federal level, we need stronger measures to curb speculation. This includes tightening and expanding taxes on house flipping, vacant properties, and underused housing. We should also look at limiting large scale investor ownership in the housing market, especially where it pushes out first time buyers and renters.

We also need to focus on building and preserving nonmarket housing, including co ops, public housing, and purpose built rentals. These models keep housing affordable over the long term and reduce exposure to speculative pressures.

On multi tenanted housing, the federal government should support municipalities with funding and national guidelines to ensure safety, enforce standards, and prevent exploitation. But enforcement alone is not enough. We must address the underlying shortage of affordable housing so people are not forced into these situations in the first place.

Housing must be treated as a home first. The federal government has a responsibility to act to restore balance and ensure people in Scarborough Southwest can access safe, stable, and affordable housing.

**Cost of Living & Income Adequacy**

**COMMENT:** Many people accessing food banks today are employed but still cannot afford basic needs.

**QUESTION 2:**

What will you do to ensure incomes—whether through wages or income supports—keep pace with the cost of living?

**GREEN PARTY OF CANADA - Pooja Malhotra**

Scarborough Southwest has extreme income disparities and when people with jobs start lining up at food banks, it's a clear signal that our economy is failing them. Additionally, given the state of the world and the subsequent supply chain disruptions, it is crucial to expand safety nets for people, so that no one gets left behind.

As MP, I would:

- Introduce legislation, push for debate, use every available tool to hold the government accountable.
- Table a private member's bill to **index the federal minimum wage** for federally regulated sectors **to the cost of living**, so it never falls behind again. Additionally, I would work with the Province of Ontario to implement an appropriate living wage that reflects the reality of living in cities like Toronto.

- Advocate for **expansion of the Canada Child Benefit**, tying it to inflation. Push for the CRA to process and deliver federal benefits within one month of major life changes.
- Push for **Employment Insurance reforms** so it covers more workers, including those in precarious positions.

Support the work being done on **Guaranteed Livable Income**. Senator Kim Pate introduced Bill S-206 to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable income, and the Senate held hearings in February 2026 with experts on gender justice, disability rights, and housing. I would use my voice to build momentum, urging the government to move forward with the Senate's findings.

### LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA - Doly Begum

Ensuring that incomes keep pace with the cost of living is incredibly important - and an issue that I will be focused on if elected as your next federal Member of Parliament.

I am proud of the steps the new Liberal government has taken over the past year to help families keep more money in their pockets.

First, the government has introduced the new Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit. This program will provide direct, tax-free payments to more than 12 million Canadians, including a one-time top-up starting in the spring of 2026 and a 25% permanent increase to benefits for five years.

As a result, a family of four could receive up to \$1,890 this year.

Second, the government has delivered a middle-class tax cut that will benefit 22 million Canadians, providing a tax break of up to \$420 per individual or \$840 per family each year. This is an incredibly important measure that will help many families here in Scarborough Southwest.

Third, recognizing the pressure on students and young Canadians, federal student grants have just been extended and strengthened. This will reduce education costs and help ensure that our next generation can access the good-paying jobs they deserve.

Taken together, these measures are helping reduce everyday costs for many in our community here in Scarborough Southwest. If elected, I will work hard every day to ensure supports like these are delivered in our community.

### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA - Fatima Shaban

The rising cost of living is outpacing wages and income supports, and too many families in Scarborough Southwest are feeling the strain. Addressing this requires both increasing incomes and reducing the essential costs people face every day.

At the federal level, we need to raise the floor for workers by strengthening labour protections and supporting fair wages. This includes advancing policies that promote better pay, more secure work, and the right to organize. When workers have stronger protections, incomes rise more sustainably.

We also need to improve income supports so they keep pace with inflation. Programs like the Canada Child Benefit, Old Age Security, and disability supports should be regularly adjusted to reflect real cost of living increases, not delayed or partial updates. Expanding supports for low and middle income families is essential to ensuring no one is left behind.

At the same time, we must reduce the pressures driving costs higher. That means investing in affordable housing, expanding access to public healthcare, and supporting affordable childcare and transit. Lowering these core expenses has a direct impact on people's financial stability.

Finally, tackling corporate price gouging and improving competition in key sectors can help prevent unjustified increases in everyday costs. This is about restoring balance. People who work hard or rely on fixed incomes should not be falling behind. The federal government has a responsibility to ensure that incomes grow alongside the cost of living so families in Scarborough Southwest can live with stability and dignity.

### Jobs, Transit & Local Economy

**COMMENT:** Many residents commute long distances for work while local job opportunities remain limited. As well, there is a lack of any public transit infrastructure upgrade in our ward since the 1960's. Higher order transit in Scarborough touches <10% of the population. And Scarborough needs frequent transit with better connections and improved infrastructure.

#### QUESTION 3:

How would you leverage federal investments to create more well-paying, stable jobs within Scarborough Southwest—and what role should the federal government play in improving higher order transit access to support that growth?

### GREEN PARTY OF CANADA - Pooja Malhotra

The federal government can shape where investment flows but instead, they have just cut \$5 billion from the Canada Public Transit Fund. That cut hurts Scarborough, often known as "Carborough" due to a lack of reliable public transit and the subsequent dependence on private vehicles.

Federal dollars come with conditions and as an MP for Scarborough Southwest, I would:

- Push for **Community Benefits Agreements** on all federal infrastructure spending, including transit, housing, and green retrofits. That means requiring local hiring, apprenticeships, and unionized wages. I would introduce motions to make these agreements mandatory, ensuring that when the federal government invests, Scarborough residents get the jobs.
- Advocate for a **Green Jobs Initiative** that trains and employs local workers to retrofit homes and buildings, creating skilled trades jobs while lowering emissions.

Reliable transit is how people would reach these jobs. I would:

- Push for the **\$5 billion cut to be reversed** and the funding restored.
- Push for **Scarborough Southwest** and Scarborough, in general, be **prioritized in the remaining Canada Public Transit Fund dollars**, advocating for dedicated bus lanes in key arterial Scarborough roads, and for the Stouffville GO line to run frequent, two-way, all-day-service, making transit a real option for commuters. I live by the Scarborough GO station and can personally attest to the benefits of a frequent, two-way, all-day, reliable GO line (Lakeshore East-West).

**These 2 goals are connected.** Transit construction itself creates jobs, and those jobs should go to local residents. Reliable transit then connects people to those jobs and to the broader economy. The federal government has the tools: procurement power, funding, and the ability to set conditions and I will fight to make sure those tools are used to build a system that works for Scarborough.

### **LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA - Doly Begum**

Our communities can only grow when there are investments in foundational infrastructure projects like public transit, water systems, and local roads and bridges. While serving as your local MPP, I worked hard to ensure accountability for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT construction delays and to bring better infrastructure to our community through my tireless advocacy for the Scarborough Subway extension.

The federal government plays a key role in delivering these investments - and that's exactly what the new Liberal team has been doing. In Budget 2025, the government announced the launch of the Build Communities Strong Fund - a \$51 billion program that will modernize local infrastructure across the country. This funding has been broken down into three streams:

1. The Provincial and Territorial Stream (\$17.2B) - Funding will support housing-enabling, health, and post-secondary infrastructure.
2. Direct Delivery Stream (\$6B): Funds regional projects, climate adaptation, and community infrastructure.
3. Community Stream (\$27.8B): Bolsters the existing Canada Community Building Fund to provide annual funding to municipalities.

Just last week, the federal government announced an investment of over \$183 million to the City of Toronto for the 2025-26 fiscal year through what will be the Community Stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund. This allocation will help to improve transit and make it more accessible through projects like the Toronto Transit Commission's Easier Access Program, which will upgrade subway stations with elevators, accessible doors, updated signage, and wayfinding.

If elected, I will work tirelessly to ensure that Scarborough Southwest gets the infrastructure funding we need to improve all types of transit - including improvements to our subways, LRTs, bus routes, roads, sidewalks and bike lanes.

### **NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA - Fatima Shaban**

Scarborough Southwest faces a clear imbalance. Residents are commuting longer distances because local job opportunities have not kept pace with population growth, and transit infrastructure has not kept up either. The federal government has a critical role to play in addressing both.

First, we need to bring good, stable jobs closer to the community. That means using federal investments to support local economic development, including funding for small businesses, community infrastructure, and workforce development programs. We should prioritize investments that create well paying jobs in sectors like construction, clean energy, healthcare, and the skilled trades, with a focus on hiring locally.

Second, federal infrastructure funding must be tied to real outcomes for communities like Scarborough Southwest. That includes accelerating investment in higher order transit and ensuring projects are designed to expand access, not just serve existing corridors. Scarborough needs more than isolated projects. It needs a connected, reliable transit network that reduces commute times and supports local economic growth.

The federal government should work in partnership with the city and province, but also be willing to set clear expectations and provide sustained funding to move projects forward. Reliable, frequent transit is not just about mobility. It is essential for accessing jobs, supporting businesses, and building a stronger local economy.

By investing in both local job creation and modern transit infrastructure, we can reduce long commutes, strengthen the local economy, and ensure Scarborough Southwest is not left behind.

### Environment & Local Identity (Scarborough Bluffs)

**COMMENT:** All around the world governments are protecting their green spaces and natural heritage sites. The preservation of the Scarborough Bluffs, a significant natural feature in Scarborough Southwest and a City treasure, must be a priority for our next MP. The Bluffs, and many environmentally sensitive areas, should not be an afterthought.

#### QUESTION 4:

- a. What role should the federal government play in protecting the Scarborough Bluffs?
- b. Would you support pursuing federal environmental protections or designations, and why or why not?

### GREEN PARTY OF CANADA - Pooja Malhotra

#### PART A:

Scarborough Bluffs are a natural treasure, but they face growing threats. Climate change is bringing more intense storms and rising lake levels, accelerating erosion and putting adjacent communities at risk. The City and TRCA are already undertaking shoreline stabilization through the Scarborough Waterfront Project, but their success depends on a reliable federal partner.

At the same time, the Ford government is moving to break the tripartite agreement that governs Toronto Island Airport, expropriate city land, and introduce jet aircrafts. This expansion would worsen air quality and pollution across Toronto's waterfront, including the eastern beaches and the Bluffs. Jets burn significantly more fuel, meaning higher emissions and health impacts on our communities.

As MP, I would:

- Advocate for a stable, multi-year **federal partnership with the City and TRCA** to fund shoreline protection and public access, using programs like the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund.
- Demand that the federal government **uphold** its responsibilities under **the tripartite agreement** and refuse to enable a project that threatens our waterfront.

- Push for federal infrastructure funding for transit, housing, or community projects near the Bluffs to include climate-resilient design standards and community benefit agreements.
- Parks Canada has deep expertise in managing national parks and sensitive ecosystems. I would push for a **formal partnership between Parks Canada, the City, and the TRCA** to bring that expertise to the Bluffs without overriding local decision-making.

Demand that the federal government work with the City and the province to create a coordinated, fully funded strategy for the entire Scarborough waterfront.

**PART B:**

Yes, but only if the protections are community-driven, respectful of local and Indigenous governance, and tied to real climate action. I would oppose any top-down designation that ignores local voices.

Research shows that Scarborough faces both a lower-income population and a higher risk of climate emergencies than other parts of Toronto.

At the same time, the federal government has rolled back key climate policies while Canada falls further behind in its climate commitments. The consumer carbon tax, EV sales mandate, oil and gas emissions cap are just a few examples of policies that have been scrapped.

This would impact the Bluffs and our waterfront communities.

I would support pursuing a federal designation, such as a National Urban Park, but only if it includes legally binding climate adaptation funding that cannot be undone by backroom deals. Such a federal designation would provide dedicated, long-term funding, a clear conservation mandate, and legal protections that would make it harder to compromise the Bluffs for short-term gain, like an expanded airport.

**LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA - Doly Begum**

**PART A:**

The Scarborough Bluffs are a key part of our identity here in Scarborough Southwest. Every year, thousands of visitors from across the city and around the country come to visit our beautiful, shared landmark - and it is essential we protect them.

Although the Scarborough Bluffs and their maintenance are primarily a responsibility of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the City of Toronto, any physical works along the Lake Ontario shoreline – erosion control, habitat enhancement, and trail construction near the water’s edge – must adhere to stringent federal standards and regulations.

I am very supportive of the important work being done by the Scarborough Waterfront Project to create a system of public green spaces along the Lake Ontario shoreline between Bluffer’s Park and East Point Park, and I will meet with constituents regularly to ensure your voices and concerns on its future are brought to Ottawa and acted upon.

**PART B:**

I look forward to working with and consulting members of our community on how best to preserve our beautiful Bluffs. I will also work closely with the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Nature to support the important work of the Canada Water Agency to protect Lake Ontario, the health of its ecosystems, and our shoreline.

**NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA - Fatima Shaban**

**PART A:**

The Scarborough Bluffs are one of the most important natural features in our community, and protecting them requires coordination across all levels of government, including federal leadership.

The federal government has a role to play in funding and supporting climate resilience, shoreline protection, and environmental conservation. This includes investing in erosion control, sustainable infrastructure, and restoration projects that protect the Bluffs from the impacts of climate change and increased development pressure.

It should also work in partnership with the city, province, and conservation authorities to strengthen protections for environmentally sensitive areas. That means ensuring that federal environmental standards and assessments are applied where relevant, and that funding supports long term preservation, not short term fixes.

Equally important is supporting public access in a responsible way. Investments in maintenance, education, and sustainable use can help ensure the Bluffs remain accessible while protecting their ecological integrity.

Protecting the Scarborough Bluffs is about preserving a shared natural heritage for future generations. The federal government must be a strong partner in ensuring these spaces are protected, restored, and respected.

**PART B:**

Yes, I would support pursuing federal environmental protections where they strengthen, not duplicate, existing safeguards.

Federal designations can bring added resources, stronger oversight, and long term protection against development pressures, especially as climate change accelerates erosion and environmental risk. For a site like the Scarborough Bluffs, this can help ensure consistent standards and sustained investment in preservation and restoration.

At the same time, any federal role must work in partnership with the city, province, and conservation authorities, who are already closely involved in managing these lands. The goal should be to enhance protection, not create unnecessary overlap or delay.

Ultimately, protecting the Bluffs is about long term stewardship. If federal designation helps secure stronger protections, better funding, and coordinated action, then it is worth pursuing.

**Precarious Work & Income Supports**

**COMMENT:** Many residents rely on contract, gig, or part-time work without stability or benefits.

**QUESTION 5:**

What changes would you make to federal programs like Employment Insurance & Childcare to better support workers in precarious employment?

**GREEN PARTY OF CANADA - Pooja Malhotra**

Too many people in Scarborough Southwest are piecing together work, whether it's contract, gig, or part-time, without the security or benefits of a safety net that actually catches them. Our current systems were designed for a full-time, permanent workforce, and they are not meeting the needs of the people in 2026.

The current EI system keeps out the very people who need it the most. EI eligibility is based on hours worked and a job that fits the “standard” model. Gig workers and self-employed people can opt-in, but few do because of high premiums and uncertain coverage. The \$10/day childcare system is a gamechanger for a lot of people, but it assumes stable, predictable hours and employment. Precarious workers often have rotating schedule, part-time hours, or shift work.

As MP, I would:

- Introduce a private member’s bill to **modernize EI** by lowering the required hours, counting income from multiple employers, and creating a flexible benefit for workers whose hours fluctuate.
- Move motions calling on the government to **mandate employer contributions for platform workers** (Uber, SkipTheDishes, Doordash, etc.) so they pay into EI and CPP like other employers.
- Push for **flexible childcare funding** that supports part-time, evening, and weekend spots, so a gig worker or someone working rotating shifts isn’t left without options.

Push for stronger **federal oversight to ensure the \$10/day program expands** in Scarborough and includes provisions for non-standard work arrangements.

### LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA - Doly Begum

The global landscape is rapidly changing, leaving workers under a cloud of uncertainty. In response, Canada’s new Liberal government is focused on what it can control: building a stronger economy, creating good job opportunities with higher wages, and building capacity across key sectors.

A robust Employment Insurance (EI) program is vital for supporting community members as they transition back into the workforce. I am proud of the federal government's ongoing work to modernize and strengthen EI benefits, ensuring they remain responsive to global instability that impacts our workforce.

In March 2025, the government took swift action to introduce a pilot project to improve access to EI for workers whose jobs were affected by US tariffs. And just last week, the Government announced that this pilot will further extend beyond April 2026 the three existing temporary EI measures that:

- Waive the one-week EI waiting period so that claimants can receive benefits for the first week of their EI claim, softening the shock of an income drop.
- Suspend the treatment of monies paid on separation so that claimants can receive EI benefits without having to first exhaust separation payments received from the employer.
- Provide 20 additional weeks of regular benefits for long-tenured workers, so that those who may require more time to find new employment have access to additional income support.

On childcare - I have long been an advocate for \$10/day care, and am very glad to see the real progress that has been made in Ontario towards reaching that goal with significant federal investment, leading to an average of \$19/day this year. If elected, I will work hard to continue driving those costs down for families and parents across the riding.

I’m proud of the strong work being done on pharmacare and dental care. These are the priorities I will continue to fight for in Ottawa in consultation with you.

## NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA - Fatima Shaban

Too many workers in Scarborough Southwest are in contract, gig, or part time jobs without stability or benefits, yet our federal programs have not kept up with how people work today.

On Employment Insurance, we need to modernize the system so more workers actually qualify. That means lowering the hours required to access EI, extending coverage to gig and self employed workers, and ensuring benefits reflect real income so people are not left behind when work is unstable.

On childcare, affordability and accessibility are key, especially for workers with irregular schedules. Federal funding should expand flexible childcare options, including extended hours and community based care, so parents working evenings, weekends, or multiple jobs are not excluded.

We also need to ensure childcare remains affordable and publicly supported, so it reduces financial pressure rather than adding to it.

This is about fairness. People working hard in today's economy should not be penalized because their jobs are less predictable. Federal programs must reflect the reality of modern work and provide the stability families need.

## Candidate Priorities

### QUESTION 6:

What are the three (3) most important and achievable priorities for improving the lives of residents in Scarborough Southwest—and how would you deliver results on them?

## GREEN PARTY OF CANADA - Pooja Malhotra

For Scarborough Southwest, working across all 3 levels of government must deliver measurable results.

**Affordability:** I will work with both the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario to address **the rising costs** of everyday life. That includes pushing for coordinated action on rent stabilization, creation of a coordinated community food program with a city-supported **community fridge network** connected to Zero Waste policies, and a provincial cap on hydro rate increases **for residential consumers**.

**Transit:** I will push for federal funding tied to real service improvements such as increased bus frequency and reduced wait times in transit-dependent Scarborough. I will work with the city to ensure local routes are prioritized where demand is highest, and with the province to align regional transit planning (GO trains) so Scarborough isn't left behind.

**Healthcare:** I will push for federal health transfers to be tied to clear outcomes like shorter wait times and better access to family doctors in Scarborough. I will also advocate for increased investment in community-based care, including mental health and addiction services in Scarborough. I will push for evidence-based, community-informed solutions that prioritize both public health and community safety.

### LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA - Doly Begum

During my nearly eight years serving as your MPP, I worked to deliver on the priorities most important to you — building a stronger healthcare system, supporting more reliable public transit, building affordable housing, and delivering programs that make life better for everyone.

**The three most important and achievable priorities I hear about at the doors are:**

1. Bringing Down the Cost of Living and Increasing Housing Supply
2. Improving Public Transit
3. Keeping our Community Safe

**Housing** is one of the most pressing challenges for all Canadians, and it is deeply connected to the broader cost-of-living pressures that families and young people are facing. To address this, I will advocate directly to the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure to support projects in Scarborough that build more affordable homes in our community. On other cost-of-living measures, I will support initiatives such as the middle-class tax cut and the Groceries and Essentials Benefit that puts money directly back into people's pockets.

**On public transit**, I will advocate for specific TTC funding for Scarborough - building on the \$183 million the federal government has just given to the City of Toronto for the 2025-26 fiscal year through the Build Communities Strong Fund. I will work hard, alongside my Scarborough caucus colleagues, to deliver better service to constituents across our neighbourhoods.

**Finally, I will work hard to keep our community safe.** The government has already taken strong steps to do this by introducing new legislation that will make bail stricter and toughen sentencing laws. I will work with members of our community to ensure everyone living, working, and growing up in our communities is safe, and can thrive.

**Above all**, I'm running to bring Scarborough Southwest's voice to Ottawa, to fight for the things I have always believed in — and to build a stronger, more prosperous future for our community.

### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA - Fatima Shaban

The three most important and achievable priorities for Scarborough Southwest are cost of living, healthcare, and housing, and all require focused federal action.

First, on the cost of living, we need to put more money back in people's pockets by strengthening income supports, addressing price pressures, and reducing core expenses like childcare, transit, and housing. The federal government can deliver this through targeted relief and by ensuring supports keep pace with inflation.

Second, investing in healthcare means improving access to family doctors and reducing wait times. The federal government must increase health transfers with clear accountability, support workforce recruitment, and invest in community based care so residents can access timely, reliable services.

Third, on housing, we need to build more homes people can actually afford while protecting renters. This includes investing in non market housing, accelerating construction, and strengthening tenant protections to ensure people can remain in their communities.

These priorities are achievable with sustained investment, coordination with other levels of government, and a clear focus on delivering real results for families in Scarborough Southwest.

**Candidates, thank you for responding to our questions and good luck to you all!**