

## Ontario Election 2022 Questionnaire

We hope you would answer the following questions in regard to your and your party's stance on human rights and international law in regard to Palestine.

*"We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians." ? [Nelson Mandela](#)*

**We stand for freedom, justice and equality for the Palestinian people, and believe that "our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."**

**We note that successive Canadian governments were responsible for aiding and abetting Israeli ethnic cleansing, war crimes and apartheid. It is about time for the Canadian government as well as provincial and municipal governments to stop their blind and unconditional support for Israel, which enables and maintains the ongoing Israeli violations of international law and Palestinian rights.**

**At the provincial level actions such as legislation, motions, order-in-councils, and policy is used to restrict civil liberties and human rights for Palestinians and those who speak up in regard to Palestine.**

**We ask you to clarify where you and your party stand on the following points.**

- Recently human rights organizations, including [Amnesty International](#), the Israeli human rights organization [B'Tselem](#) and Human Rights Watch ([HRW](#)), established that Israel is a racist apartheid state "from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea".

**Q1. Do you recognize the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full [equality](#)?**

- Canada has adopted the Israeli narrative regarding the Palestinian refugees' right of return; its [shameful position](#) was to resettle Palestinian refugees rather than support their internationally recognized right to return.

**Q2. Do you respect, protect and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in [UN resolution 194](#)?**

- While the Canadian Government pays lip service to the establishment of a Palestinian state, it [opposes](#) all UN General Assembly resolutions that call for facilitating such a state. Canada also gives Israel, the occupier, a veto power over such a state.

**Q3. Do you support ending Israeli [occupation](#) and colonization of all Arab lands that were permitted to stand for 54 years, and dismantling [the Wall](#), and support the necessary concrete measures to implement such a commitment?**

- On February 22, 2016 the House of Commons passed a [resolution](#) that called “upon the government to condemn any and all attempts by Canadian organizations, groups or individuals to promote the BDS movement, both here at home and abroad.” Ontario passed a [motion](#) in this regard on December 1, 2016.

**Q4. Do you recognize the rights of Ontarians to support the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions [movement](#) as a non-violent strategy to force Israel to abide by UN resolutions and all international humanitarian laws? Would you consider repealing the 2016 anti-Palestinian/anti-BDS motion passed the Ontario legislature?**

- Canada, as a high signatory to the Fourth Geneva Convention, is required under [Article 1](#) to ensure the convention is upheld in all circumstances. Additionally, under the [Special Economics Measures Act](#), Canadian law requires sanctions on countries that commit “gross and systematic human rights violations”.

**Q5. Are you prepared to support sanctions in this regard for Israel’s human rights violations against the people of Palestine?**

- Despite irrefutable evidence by respectable human rights organizations, the Canadian government continues to [deny](#) that Israel is an apartheid state. Further, although Canada [sanctions](#) 21 countries, 9 of them in the Middle East and most of them without due justification, Canada adamantly refuses to sanction Israel. Meanwhile, Canada has been quick to institute sanctions against Russia including sanctions at provincial level such as removing Russian alcohol from the LCBO.

**Q6. Do you support government sanctions on Israel, including a [bilateral military embargo](#), until it complies with international humanitarian law, the Fourth Geneva Convention and dismantles its apartheid regime?**

- Canada [opposes](#) the International Criminal Court [investigation](#) into Israeli war crimes. This is another example of Canada’s singling out Israel and shielding Israel from punishment for its war crimes and the crime of apartheid.

**Q7. Do you support justice for the Palestinian people by holding Israel accountable for its [ethnic cleansing](#), [war crimes](#) and apartheid?**

- The Canadian government [adopted](#) the [racist](#) anti-Palestinian [IHRA definition](#) of anti-Semitism. The IHRA definition lists 7 out of 11 examples that “[conflate antisemitism with criticism of Israel and Zionism](#).” In [this regard](#), in Ontario under the Ford government , [Bill 168](#) was introduced going to second reading and referred to committee., and without consultation [Order in Council 1450/2020](#) declared on October 26, 2020.

**Q8. Do you oppose the anti-Palestinian, anti-democratic and politically charged [IHRA definition](#) of anti-Semitism, and do you pledge to reverse this racist Ontario government position?**

- In February 2021, a pro-Israel [lobby group](#) tried to push the Canadian government to follow Israel's lead and label a Palestinian prisoner support group as "terrorist", thereby criminalizing Palestinian advocacy work in Canada. In 2003, the Canadian government added major Palestinian resistance organizations to its [terrorist list](#), again in part due to pressure from Canadian Zionist [organizations](#).

**Q9. Do you oppose foreign countries influencing Canadian domestic policy, and would you work to reverse the listing of the Palestinian resistance organizations on the terrorist list? Do you feel Canada's policies on these important issues should be decided by what the Israeli government dictates?**

- The Canadian Foreign Enlistment Act states, "Any person who, within Canada, recruits or otherwise induces any person or body of persons to enlist or to accept any commission or engagement in the armed forces of any foreign state or other armed forces operating in that state is guilty of an offence." A [legal complaint](#) was submitted to the Canadian Justice Minister who has indicated the [RCMP is investigating](#). When York Students protested Israeli military being on campus in 2019, Premier Doug Ford condemned the Palestinians and others who were peacefully protesting the Israeli military being on campus.

**Q. 10. Do you support the enforcement of the Canadian Foreign Enlistment Act? Would you ensure the police under provincial oversight would investigate if called upon in this regard?**