

Karen McCrimmon – Ontario Liberal Party

The Liberal candidate did not respond specifically to our questions, but did provide the following statement:

I'm well aware that affordable, safe, and secure housing is a social determinant of health. The situation in Kanata-Carleton is a very good example of what happens when there is no integration or coordination in building infrastructure. Not only do residents lack a range of housing options, but the data used in building schools, for example, is out of date before the schools are finished. In 2022, the Doug Ford government pledged to invest more funds in community housing. Paving over the province's green space so that developers can build McMansions makes a mockery of that pledge. The preference for increasing the supply of condominiums over rental or for sale to low- and moderate-income groups is not the answer, either.

I live in Constance Bay, a rural part of the riding, so I understand firsthand the challenges of residents in accessing all the services and amenities that they need. In the last redistribution of riding boundaries, a good deal of the rural parts of Kanata-Carleton shifted to neighbouring ridings. That doesn't mean out of sight, out of mind. Rural areas need more and better infrastructure planning. Even though it's a (sub)urban community, many parts of Kanata are also under-served when one applies the 15-minute walk model.

All levels of government need to step up. When talking with residents, I've heard horror stories from both tenants and landlords. The Landlord and Tenant Board needs more resources to clear its backlog. There's no silver bullet to fix such a complex problem, but I assure you that I will do everything that I can to address the housing needs of the residents of Kanata-Carleton.