

CONVENTION FAQ

General Information

What can I expect at Convention?

- ▶ Convention is the governing body of the party, and it is convened every two years to accomplish important party business like electing the Provincial Executive and passing policy resolutions. In addition, it is an opportunity to meet with hundreds of other dedicated New Democrats from across the province, form connections, and organize our movement.
- ▶ Convention also includes training opportunities for delegates to learn key campaigning skills from top professionals and activists in the field. We will be joined by exciting guest speakers including elected officials from around the province, country and world, hear from panels of experts on key issues like housing and healthcare, and watch videos and presentations from our years of fighting for a better Ontario.

Where is Convention held?

Convention 2025 will be held at the *Niagara Falls Convention Centre* in downtown Niagara Falls.

When is Convention, and what other key dates should I be aware of?

Convention 2025 will take place from Friday, September 19th to Sunday, September 21st.

Other key dates include:

June 23	Early Bird Registration Fee Begins
July 25	Resolution Submission Deadline
August 1	Early Bird Registration Fee Ends
August 8	Affiliate Organization Deadline
August 17	Child Care Registration Deadline
August 28	Hotel Room Booking Deadline (for preferred rate)
September 18	Ontario New Democratic Youth Convention

How much does it cost to attend Convention?

The fees for Convention, as passed by Provincial Council on September 23rd, 2024, are as follows:

Early Bird Delegate Fee	\$325
Regular Delegate Fee	\$375
Reduced Delegate Fee*	\$50
Alternate/Member Observer	\$100
Non-Member Observer	\$2000

*The reduced delegate fee is intended for youth under 26, seniors 65 and over, and the underwaged (typically defined as those who did not pay income tax for 2023 based on self-identification).

Delegate Registration

What is a Convention delegate?

A convention delegate is someone who has been chosen by an approved delegating body to represent it at Convention. Approved delegating bodies include riding associations, equity committees, youth clubs, union affiliates and labour councils. All delegates must be members of the party. The rules governing delegate selection and allotment can be found in the constitution.

How do I become a Convention delegate?

- ▶ Watch our intro to Convention video [here!](#)
- ▶ The easiest way to become a delegate is through your local riding association. If you are a party member, you should be notified when your riding is having a General Membership Meeting (GMM) to select its delegates. You can renew your membership or join as a new member here. If you haven't been contacted and aren't sure if you're on the list, or if you live in a riding with a less active riding association, please reach out to organize@ontariondp.ca.
- ▶ You can also join the waitlist. We recommend only joining the waitlist once you have tried to get in touch with your riding association, or once your riding's GMM has already passed and you were unable to secure a delegate slot. We will prioritize gender parity and equity seeking voices as well as order of application when selecting delegates from the waitlist.
- ▶ You can join the waitlist on the registration page by selecting 'I have not received an easycode' and then 'I have not been approved as a delegate, but would like to be added to the waitlist to attend Convention.'
- ▶ All delegates, including those from the waitlist, must be members of the party in good standing. Renew your membership here or contact info@ontariondp.ca if you're not sure.

What is an easycode?

An easycode is a 6 digit number that you will use to register for convention. Once you've been approved as a delegate, we'll send you your easycode via email along with a link to register!

I have been approved or elected as a delegate by my delegating body, but have not yet received an easycode. How do I register?

We distribute easycodes after we receive approved delegations from delegating bodies. If your GMM has passed and you have not yet received an easycode, please contact your riding president, union local leadership, or committee co-chair to ask if they have submitted your information. If more than a few days pass, please contact registration@ontariondp.ca to let us know.

How do I register once I have my Easycode?

Register [here](#)!

Resolutions

How do I submit a resolution?

- ▶ Resolutions must be submitted by approved delegating bodies (riding associations, union locals, equity committees, etc). Individuals cannot submit resolutions.
- ▶ Your riding or body will notify you when they are hosting a General Membership Meeting (GMM) to debate policy resolutions, at which time you can submit your resolutions for discussion. Only resolutions passed at a GMM will be debated at Convention.

How do I write a resolution?

- ▶ Read our resolutions guide [here](#)!
- ▶ All policy resolutions should be use the format 'whereas [context], therefore be it resolved [stance or policy].' Your whereas clauses should provide information on the motivating facts behind your resolution, and your be it resolved clauses should state what action

or stance an ONDP government would take on this issue. For examples of successful past resolutions, you can view the [policy book](#).

- ▶ Resolutions must fall into one of the following policy categories:
 - Agriculture & Food;
 - Arts, Culture, Information & Communication;
 - Economy; Education; Environment & Energy;
 - Governmental Affairs;
 - Health & Long Term Care;
 - Housing;
 - Human Rights & Equity;
 - Indigenous Affairs;
 - Labour & Employment;
 - Law Enforcement & the Justice System;
 - Municipal Affairs; Social Services & Benefits;
 - Transportation; or
 - Internal Affairs & Constitutional Amendments.
- ▶ Resolutions must be 200 words or less, not including the title.
- ▶ You can view a guide to writing resolutions [here](#).

How will resolutions be prioritized?

- ▶ The order of resolutions on the floor is very important as we will not have time to get through every submitted resolution.
- ▶ All registered delegates will have a 48 hour window a few weeks before Convention to vote on the order of resolutions. The General Policy Statements and Resolutions Committee (GPSRC) will make a recommendation which will be visible to delegates during prioritization.

If my riding passed resolutions for the rescheduled January Convention, do they need to be passed again?

Yes, resolutions must be passed at a new GMM and submitted again. Our recommendation is that riding association table officers review their

previously submitted resolutions, remove any which are no longer timely or relevant, then move the remaining resolutions as an omnibus motion at your new GMM.

Accommodations, Childcare & Accessibility

Where can I stay during Convention weekend?

- ▶ The Ontario NDP has room blocks with a preferred rate at the Marriott on the Falls and the Hilton Niagara Falls.
- ▶ The Marriott is conveniently located right across the street from the Convention Centre, perfect for those who want to be close to the action. The Hilton is located right in the core of the downtown area, surrounded by restaurants and entertainment. Shuttles will run from the Hilton to the Convention Centre in the morning and evening.
- ▶ You can book in the room block for either hotel [here](#).
- ▶ You don't have to stay in the room block to attend convention. Some delegates may prefer to share airBnBs, book at other hotels, or stay at home if you live in or near Niagara Falls.

Can I be reimbursed for hotel and travel costs?

- ▶ Eligible delegates (those traveling over 480 km round trip or airfare for a round trip in excess of 720 km) may apply for a travel benefit. Should the total amount of travel claims submitted by delegates exceed the amount budgeted for reimbursement, all claims will be prorated equally within the budgeted amount. Alternatively, delegates may claim their travel expenses as a gift-in-kind and receive a tax receipt.
- ▶ Meals and accommodation will not be reimbursed by the Party, but are eligible to be claimed as a gift-in-kind and receive a tax receipt.
- ▶ Delegates will be provided with a form to submit claims. Please note that all claim forms must be accompanied with receipts before they will be processed.

Will there be childcare on-site?

- ▶ Yes! We will provide childcare at the Convention Centre free of charge to delegates from Friday morning until adjournment on Sunday. We will provide meals and snacks to children, as well as entertainment and activities.
- ▶ The deadline to request childcare is August 17th. We cannot guarantee we will be able to accommodate requests made after this date. If you will require childcare, please send an email to convention@ontariondp.ca by August 17th.
- ▶ Our childcare is provided by CUPE unionized professionals.

Is Convention accessible?

- ▶ Niagara Falls Convention Center is a fully accessible venue. We have taken great care to make the event as barrier-free as possible including, but not limited to, the following: simultaneous French interpretation, closed captioning, assistive hearing devices, mobility devices, large print documents, encouraged use of masks, a quiet space, a prayer room, accessible hotel rooms, a charging station in the main plenary, and an on-site nurse's office.
- ▶ The registration portal contains a highly detailed accessibility survey to ensure that we are able to meet your needs. If you have additional questions, please reach our accessibility coordinators at accessibility@ontariondp.ca.

Is this a hybrid event?

- ▶ Yes! We are offering virtual participation on a limited basis as a pilot project. Virtual delegates will be able to watch and listen to proceedings in the main plenary, vote on motions and resolutions, and participate in debate!
- ▶ While we are very excited about this project, it is most likely to be successful if offered to a small number of delegates, therefore we are encouraging folks to attend in person unless there are insurmountable barriers. We are happy to work with you to create an accessibility plan that allows you to attend in person.

- ▶ If you are interested in the hybrid convention, you can register through the normal registration page. You will be able to select 'Yes, contact me about the hybrid convention pilot project' and we will follow up with more information.

Will food be provided?

No, delegates are generally responsible for their own meals. We will operate a canteen outside of the main plenary space where delegates can purchase snacks and drinks.

Labour Affiliates & Organizations

I am not involved in my riding association, but I am involved in my union. Can I attend as a labour delegate?

Please contact your union local leadership to ask if they are affiliated with the Ontario NDP and plan to send delegates to Convention.

I am a table officer of a union local and we would like to send a delegation to Convention, but I'm not sure if we are affiliated.

Please contact Bailey at bsargent@ontariondp.ca. The deadline to affiliate is August 8th.

My union local affiliated in the lead-up to the postponed January Convention. Do we need to affiliate again?

No, affiliations from fall of 2024 will be honored under the circumstances. However, if the membership of your local has increased or decreased by a few hundred members or more, you should resubmit to ensure the number of delegates you are allotted is accurate.

I work for an organization or non-profit that is aligned with the Ontario NDP's values and we are interested in having a booth at the Convention.

Please contact Laura at lziemba@paperchase.ca.