

Speaker Bios



Adam Vaughan
Liberal Party of Canada

As a politician, activist and journalist, Adam Vaughan has played a significant role in the social and economic growth of Toronto. He was first elected to be Spadina-Fort York's Member of Parliament in June, 2014, and re-elected in October 2015 at which time he became Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development (Housing and Urban Affairs).

Adam was elected twice to Toronto City Council before voters in Trinity-Spadina sent him to Ottawa. On City Council he played a major role in reforming public housing policy and championing the arts. Adam also served on the Boards of the Toronto Arts Council, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Harbourfront Centre and Heritage Toronto. Before entering politics, he was a broadcast journalist for more than 20 years, specializing in municipal affairs for both the CBC and Citytv. Adam covered all three levels of government and has written about urban issues as well.



Diana Yoon
New Democratic Party of Canada

Diana is a climate solutions expert, housing advocate, graphic designer, and balcony gardener ready to fight for the Spadina-Fort York neighbourhood in Parliament. Through her work with The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) and as a founding member of Climate Justice Toronto, Diana is a long-time activist for a just transition to a low carbon future that includes free public transit and good

green jobs. In Toronto's Chinatown, she's worked with the community to fight displacement and gentrification. Diana has seen how the housing crisis is leaving generations behind in Toronto. She was the Housing Lead of the Toronto Youth Cabinet for the 2018-2019 term, where she championed youth-friendly affordable housing solutions. Previous to TAF, Diana worked with Toronto City Councillor Mike Layton and at the Queen's University Sustainability Office. For her environmental leadership, Diana was one of Canada's Top 25 Environmentalists under 25 in 2017. She has a post-graduate certificate in Environmental Visual Communications, a joint program between the Royal Ontario Museum and Fleming College. Diana also holds a Bachelor's in Human Geography and Environmental Studies from Queen's University.



Tim Grant
Green Party of Canada

Tim Grant is the Green Party of Canada's Urban Affairs and Housing critic and candidate for University-Rosedale in the 2019 federal election. He has been the Green Party of Ontario's candidate in the last 3 provincial elections and continues to serve as the party's Transport Critic. In his day job, Tim is the publisher of Green Teacher, one of the most respected environmental education magazines in the world. Over the years, he edited 10 books and hosted 85 webinars on a wide variety of education topics. He was the chair of the Harbord Village Residents Association from 2010-2017 and a board member for 15 years. During that time, he organized 8 different tree promotion projects, including Toronto's first neighbourhood-wide tree inventory. He raised money for Scadding Court's university scholarship program for low-income students in Alexander Park. He co-chaired the Downtown West Solar Energy Project that enabled dozens of downtown residents to add solar panels to their rooftops and become early adopters of solar energy. He co-chaired Tower Power Toronto, which enabled those in condos, co-ops and apartment buildings to green their buildings. Most recently, he's been involved with Charter City Toronto, a project to help Toronto gain the power to make its own decisions and have the financial resources it needs to thrive. Tim holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Waterloo and a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Toronto.

** The Conservative Party of Canada and People's Party of Canada were invited to participate.*