

Ontario has the highest cemetery fees in Canada. We call upon the next government to lower the fees for natural burial grounds. These fees are a tax on grieving families, and prevent many from having a final resting place of their choice.

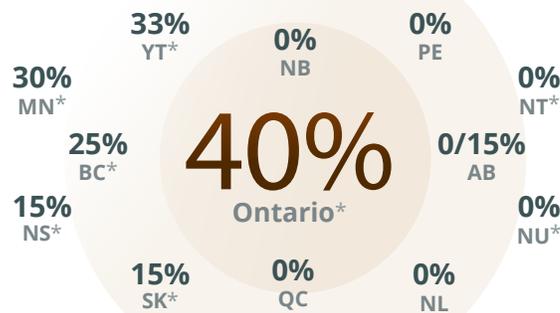


For families in Ontario:

A **40%** fee is applied to the sale of every full body plot. The national average is 13%. It **unnecessarily inflates the cost** of a natural burial, and doesn't take into consideration the reduced cost of maintaining natural sites. **Please, at a minimum, HALVE this fee.**

In a biodegradable casket, or wrapped in a shroud, we are buried without embalming or a grave vault. Our body contributes to the earth's renewal. Rather than manicured lawns and rows of tombstones, natural burial grounds resemble a meadow or forest. The land is restored and protected in its natural eco-habitat. Natural burial grounds are a fraction of the cost to maintain compared to conventional cemeteries.

Fee for a full body grave lot (%)



74% of those polled have a positive impression of natural burial and 31% would "definitely consider".**



73% think this fee should be lowered.**

64% would like to see this issue raised during the upcoming election. **

* Municipalities responsible for abandoned cemeteries. MN rate is plot with no marker, with marker it's 35%. In AB, families pay no fee in religious and municipal cemeteries and 15% in commercial cemeteries. PE does not have For Profit cemeteries; if it did, their fee would be 75%.

If a party promised to lower cemetery fees, 55% of voters said it may influence their vote.**

For new cemetery operators:

In 2022, the Ontario Government raised the new cemetery operator fee by **65%** to **\$165,000**. In every other province but one, it's \$0. It's **anti-competitive, anti-small business**. It **takes away people's choice**. We ask for the **elimination** of this fee.



76% of voters think the government should lower this fee to help support the creation of natural burial grounds in Ontario.**

Fee for a new cemetery license (\$)



Susan Greer
susan@naturalburialassociation.ca
416 888-7501
www.naturalburialassociation.ca

* Municipalities responsible for abandoned cemeteries. Existing cemeteries with sound Care Funds that open new grounds are grandfathered in.
Survey with a representative sample of 1006 Ontarians who are members of the **Angus Reid Forum, conducted by the Natural Burial Association, Jan, 2022.

natural burial
ASSOCIATION

