

A PLACE TO GROW

THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLATFORM



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**TOGETHER,
WE CAN MAKE
ONTARIO A PLACE
TO GROW.**

- STEVEN DEL DUCA

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A MESSAGE FROM STEVEN DEL DUCA



No matter where you grew up, one thing unites us all: the belief that we must make life better for the next generation. It's what my parents did for me and my siblings. It's what my wife and I are doing for our daughters. It's what we owe all of Ontario's kids right now.

The magic of Ontario is that progress has always been possible. Today, that's not always true. It used to be if you worked hard and played by the rules, Ontario would have your back. But supports haven't kept up with the times.

That's because the Ford Conservatives have the wrong priorities. Instead of building up supports, they make deep cuts. They side with billionaires and big box stores over workers and small businesses. They choose costly highways over our kids' schools. They scheme with developers and shut out communities. They back private health profits over public care.

We saw how that played out for seniors in long-term care. For parents during school closures. For businesses during shutdowns and workers without sick days. Every time, Ford's chaotic, cruel approach left people scrambling. I refuse to let our kids grow up with less opportunity than I had.

Ontario can be a place to grow, if we make the right choices.

We need to rebuild what's always made us strong. Education. Health care. Public services that support working families. They're all key to a better future and economic dignity for our families.

That's what motivates our Liberal team to work relentlessly for all of Ontario. That's what's at the core of our competent and inclusive plan to deliver for families. That's how we can build a province that works as hard and cares as much as you do.

It's your choice. This is our plan. Join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Del Duca'.

Steven Del Duca
Leader
Ontario Liberal Party

A PLAN BY AND FOR ONTARIANS

We have become a new Ontario Liberal Party by listening to you. One that shares your experiences and reflects your priorities. One that understands elections are just one part of a dialogue, not the end.

That dialogue led to the largest platform consultation in our party's history: 25 open forums, 500 consultation meetings and over 28,000 participants. In total, Ontarians submitted over 38,000 ideas and cast over 230,000 votes to create this platform.

Even after all that feedback, our platform would be incomplete without actively seeking out those who have been historically left out of Ontario's corridors of power. We held town hall meetings to hear directly from underrepresented and disadvantaged communities and reviewed and evaluated every idea put forward with them in mind. We made inclusion our foundation and it has helped improve our vision for Ontario.

Inclusion is also at the heart of our new team of candidates. More than half are women – a historic first in our party's history. People from diverse communities also make up a significant portion of our team. Our candidates are community builders like teachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, small business owners, entrepreneurs, farmers, councillors, mayors and more. Our team reflects Ontario.

We hope this plan strikes a chord with you. But we know it is only a starting point. There's still so much more work to do and we are committed to doing that work together.



Kate Graham
Platform Co-Chair



Carol Kim
Platform Co-Chair



Steve Anderson
Diversity and
Inclusion Advisor



COST OF LIVING

A PLACE TO GROW YOUR FAMILY

It's an overwhelming feeling seeing everything in life get more and more expensive while pay stays the same. Ontarians are smart, resourceful and hardworking people – making budgets work, even as they stretch thinner. But at some point, we have to say enough is enough. The Ford Conservatives won't do that. They've picked the side of billionaires and big box businesses. They have no interest in making everyday life more affordable because when you pay more for things, their friends and donors get more profits.

In every part of our plan – housing, economic growth, health care, education and climate action – we've thought about how to drive down costs and create an Ontario that people can afford to live in. And we also understand that when it comes to the cost of living, people need immediate relief right now.

Our Ontario Liberal plan for affordability puts more money in people's pockets and gives them a break after a hard and expensive four years. It also directly tackles the housing affordability crisis by prioritizing the people living in those homes – not developers or investors. Our Ontario Liberal plan gets more homes built so everyone can find a place to live.





LOWERING YOUR COST OF LIVING

Giving people a break on costs

- Remove HST on meals under \$20, funded by fair taxes
- Raise the minimum wage
- Save parents \$10,000 a year per child through \$10-a-day child care
- Bring back rent control and provide renters with a path to ownership
- Protect people from unfair charges and bills



BUILDING MORE HOMES YOU CAN AFFORD

Meeting demand to make buying and renting more affordable

- Build 1.5 million new homes, creating 150,000 jobs per year
- Ensure homes are for people who live in them
- Make the province a true partner in building affordable homes
- Empower local governments to build more homes
- Make it fairer, safer and more affordable to rent
- Protect homebuyers
- Improve housing for people who need extra support
- End chronic homelessness

LOWERING YOUR COST OF LIVING

Giving people a break on costs

Remove the HST on meals under \$20, funded by fair taxes

Ontario Liberals will:

- Remove the provincial 8% HST on prepared meals under \$20
- Introduce a 1% surtax on corporate profit above \$1 billion
- Increase taxes on individual incomes over \$500,000

People across Ontario are seeing the prices they pay for food increase faster than their wages – a trend that also eats into restaurants' margins. This is happening while companies with little or no competition – like banks and mega-grocery retailers – have continued to increase their profits.

While we work to tackle food costs in the long-term – specifically through fairer negotiations between food producers and retailers – we want to immediately help families with the cost of food. Since HST already isn't charged on groceries, we'll target prepared foods – like meals at restaurants or to-go counters – and increase the provincial HST exemption for prepared foods from \$4 to \$20, effective September 1.

To help pay for this, we'll implement a 1% surtax on highly-profitable companies operating in Ontario who earn more than \$1 billion a year. We'll also introduce a new tax bracket for the 0.2% of Ontarians whose taxable income is over \$500,000 per year, which would be taxed at a rate of 15.16% – up 2% from the current rate.

Raise the minimum wage

Ontario Liberals will:

- Increase the minimum wage to \$16 an hour
- Develop a living wage structure that provides wages people can actually live on in different regions of Ontario

If you have a job in Ontario, you shouldn't struggle to meet your basic needs – especially if you're working full-time hours. Yet for many of Ontario's minimum-wage workers, the paycheck from a hard week's effort isn't enough to keep up with the rising cost of living.

One of the very first things the Ford Conservatives did in office was freeze the minimum wage at \$14 an hour and scrap a planned increase to \$15 an hour in 2019. We'll increase the minimum wage to \$16 an hour effective January 1, 2023 to help the more than 700,000 workers who were denied three years of increases to their wages. We'll then consult broadly and develop a living wage structure that factors different wage rates in different regions of the province – recognizing that some areas are more expensive to meet basic needs in than others.

Save parents \$10,000 a year per child through \$10-a-day child care

Ontario Liberals will:

- Implement universal \$10 a day for licensed child care
- Make child care discounts retroactive, giving parents \$2,750 per child
- Deliver \$10 a day before and after school care by September
- Create 30,000 new jobs for early childhood educators (ECEs) and other child care staff
- Enhance pay and benefits for ECEs
- Provide free tuition for all ECE programs at Ontario's colleges

Parents and caregivers have stepped up during an incredibly hard two years, juggling obligations to both work and family. For some working parents, especially women, the strain has pushed them out of the workforce. Our federal partners put billions on the table to make child care better and more affordable in Ontario – but the Ford Conservatives stalled for months refusing to help families benefit from this once-in-a-generation opportunity. We'll make sure Ontario gets the job done, reducing average fees for licensed child care to \$10 a day from over \$50 dollars a day – saving parents about \$10,000 per child a year.

So parents aren't punished for the Ford Conservatives' failure to act, we'll make child care discounts retroactive to January 1, 2022 – giving families back an average of \$2,750 per child. We'll also move quickly to reduce fees for before and after-school care by over half to \$10 a day by September 2022.

Parents in Ontario can linger on wait lists for years to access child care – in large part because of a lack of qualified staff to welcome more kids. We'll create 30,000 new jobs for early childhood educators and other child care staff to build capacity in

workplaces, schools and community spaces where they're needed most – giving these workers better pay and benefits and bringing in a compensation grid in line with full-day kindergarten. As well, we'll ensure ECEs are well-equipped to help kids flourish, providing free tuition for all ECE programs at Ontario's colleges and improving recruitment, retention and professional development opportunities for lifelong learning.

Enhance parental leave and build flexible, tailored child care options

Ontario Liberals will:

- Enhance parental leave for parents who want to stay home longer
- Provide flexible and inclusive childcare options

We've heard from new parents who want to stay home with their kids longer. We'll give these parents more economic stability and valuable time with their growing families by topping-up the 18-month parental leave so they can stay home longer without their EI benefits being reduced – and we'll work with the federal government to fill gaps for new parents who don't qualify for EI.

When parents do go back to work, they need more than a one-size-fits-all child care plan. We'll expand not-for-profit child care and provide child care for parents working shifts and non-traditional hours. For families choosing caregivers outside of licensed child care, we'll bolster the CARE tax credit by 50% to an average of \$2,000, provided in regular advance payments. And we'll work to ensure parents have flexible and inclusive care options, including licensed home care, First Nations-led child care and child care for diverse families and for kids with special needs.

Bring back rent control and provide renters with a path to ownership

Ontario Liberals will:

- Prevent rent hikes by reinstating rent control everywhere in Ontario
- Give more renters a clear path to ownership

We strongly believe in building more homes and meeting housing demand – and have a plan to do just that. But when the Ford Conservatives created an arbitrary rent control exemption, they didn't do it for Ontarians. They did it for developers, making renters' lives unpredictable and less affordable each year.

We'll end the two-tiered rental market, bringing back rent control to all rental homes across Ontario and providing much-needed stability to renters who can prepare for smaller, more predictable rent increases.

And to provide renters with a pathway to ownership, we'll create a legal framework that provides protections and certainty for owners and renters to opt into rent-to-own agreements.



WE'LL END THE TWO-TIERED RENTAL MARKET, BRINGING BACK RENT CONTROL TO ALL RENTAL HOMES ACROSS ONTARIO.

Protect people from unfair charges and bills

Ontario Liberals will:

- Create new consumer protections around the right to repair electronics, online subscriptions and refunds

In today's more expensive world, discovering an unknown charge doesn't just impact savings – it can eat into rent or grocery budgets too. No one should be tricked, misled or manipulated into paying more than they want to. We'll target predatory practices and unfair policies from businesses – introducing new protections like the right to get electronics repaired instead of having to buy new ones, the right to cancel online subscriptions digitally instead of having to call or physically visit and requiring large refunds be issued automatically instead of waiting for a future billing cycle. We'll also bring stronger protections against unilateral contract changes and renewals – meaning consumers are always in the driver's seat when it comes to their money.

BUILDING MORE HOMES YOU CAN AFFORD

Meeting demand to make buying and renting more affordable

Build 1.5 million new homes, creating 150,000 jobs per year

Ontario Liberals will:

- Get 1.5 million new homes built over the next 10 years
- Build 138,000 deeply affordable homes – including 78,000 new social and community homes, 38,000 homes in supportive housing and 22,000 new homes for Indigenous peoples
- Create 150,000 new jobs through building homes

Under the Ford Conservatives' four different housing plans, the average Ontario home price went up by nearly half a million dollars, while rents have skyrocketed. Ontario is the best place in the world to call home, yet too many people can't afford to live in the neighbourhoods they grew up in, or the ones they love, enjoy and work near.

One of the biggest reasons why housing costs are so high is because demand is much greater than supply. To meet demand, we'll get at least 1.5 million new homes built in Ontario over the next 10 years – doubling the pace of building from the past decade. This ambitious target is what experts say we need to catch up to the rest of Canada, keep up with population growth and bring affordability back to Ontario's housing market.

As part of these 1.5 million homes, we'll build at least 138,000 new deeply affordable homes – including much-needed supportive housing and homes for Indigenous peoples –

as well as retain and repair tens of thousands of existing affordable homes. By doing so, we'll aim to end the waitlist for affordable public housing. We'll also work with partners to make sure these newly built homes create more ownership options for marginalized communities.

Putting money behind housing is also good for our economy. Every dollar invested in housing results in \$1.40 in economic growth and our housing plan will create an estimated 150,000 jobs per year.

Ensure homes are for people who live in them

Ontario Liberals will:

- Tax homes that are currently sitting empty, especially for non-Canadian owners
- Ban new non-resident ownership
- Introduce a 'use it or lose it' tax on developers sitting on land ready for development
- Combat money laundering in the housing market
- Ensure condo flippers pay appropriate taxes

In today's housing affordability crisis, no home should sit vacant. We'll implement an empty homes tax of 5% of assessed value on non-Canadian owners and 2% for Canadian owners with vacant residential units in all urban areas – and any revenue raised will be spent on affordable housing. We'll also work with our federal partners to ban new non-resident ownership in Ontario's housing market for at least the next four years.

There are an estimated 250,000 new homes approved for construction that have not yet been built. We can't let land ready for new homes sit empty. To discourage delays, we'll introduce a new 'use it or lose it' levy on speculators with serviced land and approved building permits.

As well, the Canadian housing market has long been identified as a place for foreign investors to park money. We'll introduce meaningful legislation to stop money laundering especially as it relates to the housing market. Finally, we'll create a publicly accessible beneficial homeownership registry which will help crack down on bad actors, including for pre-construction condo sales to ensure condo flippers pay appropriate taxes.

Make the province a true partner in building affordable homes

Ontario Liberals will:

- Establish the Ontario Home Building Corporation to finance and build much-needed affordable homes
- Unlock provincial land to build homes on

We are going to get this crisis fixed, and we can't rely just on the same approaches that got us into this mess. For decades, provincial governments pushed responsibility for building affordable housing onto overloaded municipalities unlike in nearly every other province. To correct this, we'll establish the Ontario Home Building Corporation – tasking it to work with local communities, not-for-profit housing partners and developers to build and maintain affordable homes of all types, either as a primary financing source or builder.

The Corporation will also develop surplus provincial lands, including safely burying more electric transmission lines underground to unlock up to 80,000 acres of land for new homes. We'll provide the Corporation with historic capital funding subject to strict oversight – including a hard cap on administrative expenses and salaries and a 15-year mandate to ensure housing is built rapidly, cool the housing market and end the waitlist for affordable public housing. Any homes sold by the Corporation will be

available only to first-time home buyers, and any proceeds will go directly back into creating more affordable homes.

Empower local governments to build more homes

Ontario Liberals will:

- Empower municipalities to accelerate housing projects
- Make building homes a priority in growth planning legislation
- Work with municipalities to expand zoning options
- Help and reward municipalities that meet or exceed higher housing targets

Local communities know best when it comes to where and how to build more homes, so we'll make sure they have the resources they need to approve housing as quickly and responsibly as possible – providing up to \$300 million in new funding over five years. This will also support the use of community planning permits that help bring more homes to market faster.

We'll update Ontario's growth planning framework to recognize that building homes for all current and future Ontarians is a fundamental obligation of local governments. We'll also increase housing targets in highly unaffordable communities and more accurately estimate housing demand.

Right now, it's almost impossible to build modest family-friendly housing – such as semi-detached homes, triplexes and townhomes – across most of Ontario. These exclusionary zoning policies prevent new homes from being built where people want to live. As an important step toward zoning reform, we'll work quickly in close collaboration with municipal partners to allow homes with up to three units and two storeys to be built as-of-right across the province – with this permission also extending to secondary and laneway suites.

As well, we'll reward local governments that meet or exceed housing targets in an environmentally-sustainable manner with dedicated capital funding to use for local priorities, like better transit or community amenities like parks and libraries. We'll also find and eliminate bottlenecks to new housing by requiring municipalities to regularly publish transparent housing statistics, such as approval timelines and building permits issued.

Build more homes around transit

Ontario Liberals will:

- Promote housing options near transit stations and along rapid transit routes

Transit is the best tool we have to add more homes to a community without adding more cars, driveways, roads and parking lots. So, we'll encourage the development of low-rise 'missing middle' multiplexes and other mid-rise housing options near rapid transit stations and routes through neighbourhood transition zones.

As well, inclusionary zoning is an essential tool that mandates the creation of high-quality affordable housing in new developments. However, without careful implementation it can instead be used to prevent housing from being built. To ensure inclusionary zoning succeeds over the long-term and get more affordable homes built quickly, we'll include tie-in measures with inclusionary zoning by-laws such as increasing the number of overall homes allowed to be built and permitting its expansion along rapid transit lines.

Embrace inventive approaches to increase the supply of homes

Ontario Liberals will:

- Convert underutilized industrial and commercial sites into new homes
- Allow renters and owners to increase minimum housing permissions
- Help keep existing affordable homes truly affordable
- Expand and build new co-op housing

The scale of the housing crisis calls for more proactive and innovative approaches to build more homes. For instance, too many office spaces and strip malls are sitting empty or unproductive. We'll work with municipalities to unlock more land for homes by expanding the Brownfields Tax Incentive Program to provide up to 10 years of property tax relief on all underutilized commercial space converted into homes.

We'll also allow interested municipalities to permit Street Voting – which lets single streets of residents, both renters and owners, vote to increase minimum housing allowances. We'll empower municipalities and affordable housing providers to require owners of residential buildings to keep existing affordable homes truly affordable for longer periods of time using transparent affordability covenants registered on title.

Finally, we'll expand and build new co-op housing by providing the co-op sector with \$100 million over ten years – and we'll modernize the funding formula for co-op housing corporations to continue to provide rental assistance province-wide.

Make it easier, faster and more affordable to build quality homes

Ontario Liberals will:

- Establish zoning and building code standards for low-rise residential developments
- Create a digital platform for development applications
- Implement parking maximums for new buildings within walking distance of rapid transit stations
- Eliminate backlogs and accelerate dispute resolutions

Housing projects get halted and delayed by onerous regulations like parking, floor space and lot splitting requirements. We'll simplify and modernize these rules, establishing zoning and building code standards to help more low-rise projects get built faster – and we'll build on existing efforts to create a digital platform for development applications.

We'll also implement parking maximums for new buildings within walking distance of rapid transit stations, such as subways and LRT, which can block construction or add tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of a new home.

Lengthy delays at provincial boards and agencies can be costly for Ontarians looking to buy their first home or renters seeking to resolve disputes. We'll clear backlogs wherever they exist, including by investing an additional \$15 million annually into the Ontario Land Tribunal and Landlord and Tenant Board, as well as properly equipping provincial ministries to effectively and efficiently review land-use applications.

Respect local, environmental and Indigenous input

Ontario Liberals will:

- Scrap Ministerial Zoning Orders abused by the Ford Conservatives
- Properly consult with diverse local and Indigenous voices
- Ensure housing projects aren't in violation of environmental protections and other legislation
- Prevent urban sprawl and restore urban intensification requirements

Ministerial Zoning Orders (MZOs) have let the Ford Conservatives rezone land without any public or environmental consultation – a power which they've exploited over 60 times, more than triple the number than the 15 years prior to their time in office. We'll scrap MZOs and replace them with a new rules-based measure limited to critical provincial projects only – such as new not-for-profit long-term care homes, affordable housing or major employment developments. We'll also require transparent consultations with affected local groups and Indigenous communities, and subject decisions to judicial review so they align with environmental protections and other legislation.

We'll make it easier to find out about and participate in community consultations and require municipalities to reach out to equity-deserving groups, advertise meetings on social media, provide accessible online options to participate and prioritize meeting times outside of regular working hours.

More homes need to be built, but we can't just keep spreading further and further out – encroaching on farmlands, wetlands and other greenspaces. We need to add more family-friendly housing options to the communities where people already live, which means restoring urban intensification requirements that the Ford Conservatives weakened. Preventing urban sprawl will also help Ontarians live closer to the places they work and enjoy – meaning less time commuting and less traffic.

Protect homebuyers

Ontario Liberals will:

- Reform the blind bidding process
- Provide transparency on the history of house sale prices
- Establish home inspection as a legal right and regulate home inspectors
- Require residential listings to disclose expected commission rates
- Increase penalties for unethical real estate transactions
- Make sure homebuyers are protected and get more money back sooner if projects get cancelled

Buying a home is the most important purchase most Ontarians will make, so we'll work with federal partners to implement a Home Buyers' Bill of Rights – reforming the blind bidding process and making the history of house sale prices more transparent. We'll also make home inspections a legal right for homebuyers and regulate and license home inspectors. We'll require all residential real-estate listings to publicly disclose expected commission rates, along with increasing penalties for unethical real estate transactions.

We'll enhance consumer protections for new home buyers, including reducing the amount of time it takes to resolve building defects. Finally, developers who cancel projects have a responsibility to treat prospective homebuyers

fairly and honestly – so we'll require developers who cancel projects to refund buyers sooner, on clearer contracts and with significantly higher interest rates on lost deposits.

Make it fairer, safer and more affordable to rent

Ontario Liberals will:

- Improve the safety of multi-tenant housing and strengthen enforcement in landlord-tenant dispute resolutions
- Get elevators repaired more quickly
- Make it easier for existing rental-housing providers to add new rental suites

Multi-tenant housing provides some of the most affordable options for renters – especially students, seniors and new Canadians. However, in many parts of the province, multi-tenant housing goes unregulated, leading to severe safety risks. We'll work with municipalities to enhance safety and ensure both tenants and neighbours can hold landlords accountable for the safe operation of bedroom rentals. We'll also reduce delays in landlord-tenant dispute resolutions – including ensuring homes are kept in a state of good repair and enforce larger fines for persistently negligent landlords.

Insufficient elevator access for those who live in apartments can impact quality of life and be a safety risk, especially for those with accessibility needs. We'll strengthen provincial oversight over elevator access and maintenance to make sure disruptions are resolved more quickly.



INSUFFICIENT ELEVATOR ACCESS FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN APARTMENTS CAN IMPACT QUALITY OF LIFE AND BE A SAFETY RISK. WE'LL STRENGTHEN PROVINCIAL OVERSIGHT OVER ELEVATOR ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE.

Finally, additions to existing rental buildings can be a cost-effective way to create new homes, so we'll make it easier to do so by providing as-of-right zoning status at sites where there is already purpose-built rental housing.

Help more students find safe and affordable places to live

Ontario Liberals will:

- Make it easier to build student residences on campuses
- Make it cheaper to build student housing near campuses

For students moving out of their family home to attend university or college, housing is often the biggest cost. As the number of university and college students grows in Ontario, too many students are forced to pay high rents or live in precarious and poorly-maintained homes. To help, we'll extend as-of-right zoning for building more student residences on campuses and eliminate development charges for purpose-built student housing. We'll also better account for university and college students in future housing growth forecasts so that local plans account for the additional housing required.

Improve housing for people who need extra support

Ontario Liberals will:

- Invest in social, supportive and community housing services

Supportive housing pairs affordable homes with professional services and is an effective way to prevent homelessness. For instance, seniors and people with developmental disabilities can live independently with accessible help. Likewise, those struggling with mental health and addictions can live in safe environments with access to counselling.

We'll provide municipal and non-profit partners with \$360 million annually to operate and improve social, supportive and community housing services – funding that will increase as 38,000 new homes are completed.



TO HELP, WE'LL EXTEND AS-OF-RIGHT ZONING FOR BUILDING MORE STUDENT RESIDENCES ON CAMPUSES AND ELIMINATE DEVELOPMENT CHARGES FOR PURPOSE-BUILT STUDENT HOUSING.

End chronic homelessness

Ontario Liberals will:

- Fund new emergency shelter beds and improve existing shelters
- Relaunch the homelessness census
- Promote a 'Housing First' approach to delivering support for people experiencing homelessness

There are too many people currently experiencing homelessness. We'll work to establish housing as a fundamental human right in Ontario and provide people with safe and reliable shelter, as well as the robust wrap-around services they need to live with dignity and stability. We'll provide municipalities and housing support providers with \$100 million per year to promote a 'Housing First' approach to ending chronic homelessness that will quickly move people into independent, permanent housing with comprehensive supports.

We'll fund new emergency shelter beds and drastically improve the condition of existing shelters so that there are safe and respectable options to those who need them. We'll also renovate older shelters as long-term residences and supportive housing units as people are effectively transitioned into stable housing. Finally, we'll relaunch the homelessness census that the Ford Conservatives scrapped to better understand people's comprehensive housing needs and issues.

Recognize housing as part of Indigenous reconciliation

Ontario Liberals will:

- Create 22,000 new homes for off-reserve Indigenous peoples
- Develop a distinct housing strategy for and led by off-reserve Indigenous peoples

Reconciliation is an opportunity to address decades of racism and discrimination that have pushed Indigenous people further behind others in Ontario – including when it comes to finding homes. We'll work collaboratively with Indigenous housing providers and communities, as well as the federal government, to develop a distinct housing strategy for Indigenous peoples. This strategy will be led by Indigenous housing providers and include direct funding toward the creation of 22,000 new homes over ten years – enough to address current and future core housing needs of Indigenous peoples according to experts.

SENIORS

A PLACE TO GROW OLDER

Our seniors built Ontario. We owe them our gratitude and to make this province the best possible place to age with dignity. That's not what Ontario has been under the Ford Conservatives. Instead, everyday costs continue to rise while seniors try to make do on fixed incomes. Their desire to age in homes that contain a lifetime of good memories is being threatened by a lack of affordable and available home care. And seniors who need around-the-clock support have instead endured shocking mistreatment and neglect in long-term care.

We'll refocus seniors' care on what matters most, helping to lower costs, increase care and go after those looking to make a fortune off the most vulnerable. We'll make it easier to stay in your own home by guaranteeing home care. And in the event, you need more support, we're going to build long-term care homes that feel like homes, rather than warehouses.

Our Ontario Liberal plan treats seniors with the dignity and care they deserve.





DELIVERING BETTER CARE

**Supporting seniors
to age at home**

- Increase Old Age Security by \$1,000 for those who need it
- Guarantee home care for everyone who needs it
- Support seniors to live independently
- Help seniors pay for home repairs and assistive devices
- End for-profit long-term care and protect seniors

DELIVERING BETTER CARE

Supporting seniors to age at home

Increase Old Age Security for seniors who need it

Ontario Liberals will:

- Increase Old Age Security by \$1,000 per year for eligible seniors

Older Ontarians have spent a lifetime contributing to our province - but like a lot of Ontarians, higher living costs are making it harder for seniors on a fixed income to make ends meet. We'll help them do just that - increasing income support for eligible seniors through a top-up to Old Age Security - doubling the maximum monthly payment through the Guaranteed Annual Income System by \$1,000 more per year. We'll also make sure more seniors qualify for this help by increasing the income threshold to \$25,000 for single seniors or \$50,000 for couples.



WE'LL GUARANTEE THAT ANY SENIOR WHO NEEDS CARE IN THEIR OWN HOME GETS IT BY INCREASING THE BUDGET FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE.

Empower seniors to live independently

Ontario Liberals will:

- Help seniors pay for home repairs and assistive tools like wheelchairs, hearing aids, ramps and lifts
- Give more money to caregivers that support their loved ones

Older adults want to live as long as possible in their own homes close to friends, neighbours and family. It's past time that we listen to seniors and respect their choices. We'll expand and make permanent the Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit to make living at home safer and more accessible - as well as cover more costs for assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, hearing aids and lifts. For people who take care of loved ones, we'll make the Ontario Caregiver Tax Credit refundable, tax-free and paid out throughout the year and enhance access to support programs and tools.

Guarantee home care for everyone who needs it

Ontario Liberals will:

- Help 400,000 more seniors get home care by 2026
- Increase funding for home care by 10% annually prioritizing non-profit care
- Fund assisted living alternatives and "hub and spoke" community care
- Create a dementia care network
- Fully fund the clinical costs for hospices

We'll guarantee that any senior who needs care in their own home gets it by increasing the annual budget for home and community care by over \$2 billion through 10% annual increases with a focus on front-line non-profit care, resulting in 400,000 more seniors able to get not-for-profit home care by 2026.

We'll also fund 15,000 new assisted living homes – including small, accessible and community-based residential services – as well as “hub and spoke” care that provides a comprehensive continuum of care.

We'll also create a dementia care network by investing in existing memory clinics and expanding team-based geriatric clinics. This kind of access to care should continue right up until the very end of life, so we'll support more palliative care by fully funding the clinical costs for hospices. Finally, we'll merge the government's home care functions into one ministry focused on seniors.

End for-profit long-term care and protect seniors

Ontario Liberals will:

- End for-profit long-term care as quickly as possible with a target of 2028
- Place audits, inspections and zero-tolerance sanctions on long-term care homes that endanger residents or misdirect funds
- Repeal rules that protect long-term care companies from legal liability

People were rightly horrified and disgusted when the media revealed living conditions at Ontario's private long-term care homes during the pandemic – with our parents, mentors and friends forced to endure mistreatment and neglect for “cost savings.” Seniors in private long-term care homes were more likely to die from COVID than those in non-profit or public homes. Conditions were so poor that the Canadian Army had to intervene.

We can't let this keep happening, so we'll end for-profit long-term care as quickly as possible with a target of 2028 by no longer renewing licenses for for-profit long-term care homes, as well as by negotiating and financing the transfer of existing homes to not-for-profit entities and municipalities.

We'll also improve conditions for seniors in long-term care homes, enhancing inspections to enforce – with zero-tolerance sanctions – when homes endanger residents or don't meet new standards. We'll verify through audits that government funding for long-term care homes is being spent on resident care and services and not going into the pockets of corporate directors and shareholders. We'll prevent homes from admitting new residents when they're not appropriately staffed and repeal the Ford Conservatives' rules that protect long-term care companies from legal liability for harming residents. We'll also increase training, awareness and enforcement mechanisms to eliminate elder abuse in long-term care and beyond.

Create not-for-profit long-term care homes that feel like homes

Ontario Liberals will:

- Build and redevelop 58,000 new non-profit long-term care spaces
- Ensure seniors in long-term care homes receive at least four hours of direct care every day

To make sure closing for-profit homes doesn't lead to longer wait times for seniors, we'll build 30,000 new long-term care spaces by 2028 and redevelop 28,000 existing spaces to modern standards. We'll do this by providing capital, operating and governance support to non-profit groups that want to build long-term care homes, with an emphasis on building smaller homes that reflect their communities, rather than institutional warehouses. We'll give funds to non-profit long-term care homes to provide at least an average of four hours of direct care per day, as well as provide pharmacy services, high-speed wi-fi, air conditioning and other standards of excellent care.



HEALTH CARE

A PLACE TO GROW HEALTHY

Our health is the most important priority. When you or a loved one is hurt, sick or needs help, nothing else matters. Yet the people who take care of us – nurses, doctors, personal support workers and other health care professionals – took two big hits these past four years: The Ford Conservatives’ reckless cuts and an unprecedented pandemic. Today, too many health care workers are leaving the field after feeling burnt out. As a result, people are struggling to find and afford care.

Ontario’s health care system, and the people behind it, are stretched to their limits – but it doesn’t have to stay that way. We’ll refocus health care to make sure you’re cared for when you need it, no matter where you live.

Our Ontario Liberal plan reverses the Ford Conservatives’ cuts and for-profit agenda, supports patients and our health care workers and reinforces a network of care to handle anything.





NO MORE WAITING FOR CARE

**Getting you care
with less waiting
and fewer costs**

- Hire 100,000 new nurses, doctors and other health care workers
- Clear the surgical and diagnostic backlog
- Ensure access to a doctor or nurse practitioner within 24 hours
- Grow the number of hospital beds by 20%
- Cover more medication costs
- Get more people mental health help
- Save lives in the opioid crisis



A STRONGER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

**Protecting your right
to care for generations
to come**

- Finish the fight against COVID-19
- Prepare for future health crises
- Raise pay for health care workers and prevent burnout
- Modernize health care

NO MORE WAITING FOR CARE

Getting you care with less waiting and fewer costs

Hire 100,000 new nurses, doctors and other health care workers

Ontario Liberals will:

- Hire 100,000 health care workers – prioritizing full-time roles
- Hire internationally-trained health professionals
- Add more nursing and medical school spaces
- Cover tuition costs for medical and nursing students working in a rural or remote community
- Train 3,000 new mental health and addictions professionals

There is a critical shortage of health care workers in Ontario. To create the staffing we'll need as we expand our health care capacity and replace retiring workers, we'll train and hire 100,000 new health care professionals to meet demand over the next six years – prioritizing full-time roles across the health system, including a target of 70% jobs in long-term care homes being full-time.

We'll help reach this goal by getting more internationally-trained nurses, physicians and other health professionals working in Ontario and replacing unnecessary requirements for Canadian experience – focusing instead on competency-based assessments and bridge training. We'll also increase admission in nursing programs by a minimum of 10% each year – which will add 2,000 additional nurses – and create over 450 new medical school and residency spaces across the province, using new learning avenues to do so including in Brampton and Scarborough. We'll also cover tuition costs for any medical and nursing

students in Ontario who commit to working long-term in a rural or remote community.

Finally to meet demand for mental health care, we'll train 3,000 new mental health and addictions professionals, social workers, psychologists and psychotherapists, ensuring they reflect Ontario's diversity and are culturally-competent – particularly for Indigenous, racially diverse and French-language communities.

Clear the surgical and diagnostic backlog

Ontario Liberals will:

- Clear the backlog with a \$1 billion investment in additional capacity
- Establish maximum wait times for surgeries
- Centralize surgical waitlists to maximize scheduling efficiency
- Invest in less invasive surgery approaches so people recover and leave hospitals more quickly
- Stop the expansion of for-profit health care and support not-for-profit surgery centres managed by local hospitals

Over 250,000 Ontarians are waiting for much-needed surgeries while millions of diagnostic procedures are delayed because of the pandemic. Right now, only 40% of patients are receiving MRIs on time and more than 30% of those who need a knee replacement or prostate cancer surgery are not being treated on time. We'll clear the backlog with a \$1 billion investment in additional capacity – empowering hospitals to operate significantly above pre-pandemic volumes and expand operating room, MRI and CT operations – including into evenings and weekends.

We'll also establish and publish maximum wait times for all surgeries and return to pre-pandemic wait times by the end of 2022. We'll create a centralized electronic surgical waitlist

– requiring all specialists to use e-referrals to shorten wait times and maximize scheduling efficiency. And we'll invest in new minimally-invasive surgery approaches that help people recover more quickly and shorten hospital stays.

The Conservative playbook has always been the same – starve public services with cuts, then call on the private sector to fix it. We're seeing the same approach now with their calls for for-profit private hospitals to address the surgery backlog. Ontario Liberals believe in public health care. We'll support the creation of not-for-profit surgery centres managed by local hospitals to more sustainably maintain higher surgical volumes.

Ensure access to a doctor or nurse within 24 hours

Ontario Liberals will:

- Ensure access to a family doctor or nurse practitioner within 24 hours
- Increase the number of family doctors and nurse practitioners across Ontario
- Create 15 new community health centres

A major driver of our plan to hire 100,000 new nurses, doctors and other health care workers is our commitment to ensuring access to primary care within 24 hours of when you need it – no matter where you live in Ontario. When you need help, you shouldn't have to wait days, weeks or even months to get it.

This plan will increase the number of family doctors and nurse practitioners across Ontario and we'll fund more team-based primary care clinics, including Family Health Teams and Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics. We'll also create 15 new community health centres across the province, which help tackle social, economic and environmental challenges impacting people's health in underserved communities.

Grow the number of hospital beds by 20%

Ontario Liberals will:

- Create over 3,000 new hospital beds
- Building new capacity across the province, starting with:
 - Turning Brampton's Peel Memorial into a full hospital and delivering a third new hospital and cancer centre in Brampton
 - Delivering the new Mississauga Hospital and redeveloping the Queensway Health Centre
 - Redeveloping Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, SickKids, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Centre
 - Expanding Peterborough Regional Health Centre's mental health and cancer services
 - Adding cardiovascular surgery services in Thunder Bay
 - Building new hospitals in Windsor, South Niagara, Markdale, Moosonee, Moose Factory Island, Innisfil, Whitby and Ottawa
 - Redeveloping hospitals in Chatham-Kent, Waterloo Region, Guelph, Brantford, Paris, Kincardine, Collingwood, Muskoka, Alliston, St. Catharines, Hamilton, Grimsby, North York, Scarborough, Newmarket, Uxbridge, Bowmanville, Prince Edward County, Kingston and Kenora

The pandemic has underscored the need for more permanent hospital capacity to handle whatever comes our way. We'll accelerate the creation of more than 3,000 new modern hospital beds across the province over the next decade – a 20% growth in capacity from pre-pandemic levels. From Kenora to Kanata, investments in expanding and revitalizing hospitals through both existing and new plans will result in reduced wait times, broader and modern scope of service and much-needed relief for health care workers.

Cover more medication costs

Ontario Liberals will:

- Ensure all Ontarians have access to prescription drug coverage and private benefit plans cover all the drugs in Ontario's public formulary
- Cover costs of oral chemotherapy through OHIP
- Cover medications to prevent and treat HIV
- Expand public coverage for continuous glucose monitoring systems for Ontarians with diabetes
- Lower out-of-pocket costs for drugs for rare diseases

Ontario should be proud of its publicly-funded health care system, but necessary medications remain a major cost – especially for those paying out-of-pocket. We will advocate with our federal partners for a national pharmacare plan. In the meantime, we'll ensure all Ontarians have access to prescription drug coverage by enrolling anyone without an employer benefits plan in our new portable benefits plan – including self-employed, gig, contract and creative workers. Anyone not captured by the portable benefits plan will receive drug coverage through OHIP+ or the Ontario Drug Benefit program.

We'll also cover out-of-pocket costs of medications to prevent and treat HIV, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and antiretroviral therapy, as well as oral chemotherapy while reducing the time it takes for new cancer drugs to be listed. We'll expand public coverage for continuous glucose monitoring systems for all Ontarians with type 1 diabetes who need it, and create a Diabetes Centre of Excellence to improve and measure diabetes care.

Finally, we'll work with federal partners to lower out-of-pocket costs for drugs for rare diseases while ensuring all private benefit plans cover all of the drugs in Ontario's public drugs formulary.

Get more people mental health help

Ontario Liberals will:

- Reverse the Ford Conservatives' cuts to mental health and addiction services, investing an additional \$3 billion
- Reduce wait times for mental health care
- Provide free 'mental health first aid' and guided online supports
- Hire 1,000 mental health professionals for children to eliminate wait times
- Require private employer benefits include mental health services
- Have mental health professionals in emergency rooms and ready respond to emergency calls
- Build 15,000 more supportive homes for mental health and addiction

There are a lot of new pressures on people's mental health – the pandemic, a global conflict, social media, climate change. People, and especially our kids and younger Ontarians, are feeling more stressed, anxious and depressed – and they need help. But right now, there's a major gap between wanting mental health help and finding it – so we'll reverse the Ford Conservatives' deep cuts to mental health care and connect more people to mental health support by investing an additional \$3 billion over four years in mental health and addiction services. This will expand coverage and reduce wait times for OHIP-covered mental health care for those that need it – including psychotherapy – also providing free 'mental health first aid' and guided online mental health support to everyone. To make sure our kids get help without waiting, we'll hire 1,000 more mental health professionals for children and make mental health first aid training more available to school staff.

Recognizing everyone goes through a time when they need support, we'll also require private employer benefits to include mental

health services and ensure mental health professionals are available in a crisis in hospital emergency rooms and to respond to low-risk emergency calls – diverting people with addictions and disabilities away from the justice system and into care. As part of our housing plan, we'll build 15,000 new supportive homes over the next ten years, providing safe environments and access to counselling for those struggling with mental health and addictions. Finally, we'll measure and publicly track the performance of our mental health system, including wait times and emergency visits.

Save lives in the opioid crisis

Ontario Liberals will:

- Prevent, intervene and treat opioid addiction and overdose with a \$300 million investment
- Target organized crime groups and deceptive opioid manufacturers
- Make life-saving harm reduction supplies and sites more available

Deaths related to opioid use and addiction have seen a staggering rise – devastating families and communities. We want to build a compassionate, nonjudgmental and supportive Ontario that aims to help those with addictions, follow evidence and reduce harm. We'll do so by investing \$300 million across the addictions sector to prevent, intervene and treat opioid addiction and overdoses – including providing an ample supply of naloxone kits, fentanyl testing strips and harm reduction supplies at pharmacies, community spaces and with first responders.

We'll target organized crime groups that produce and traffic illicit drugs while ensuring those with drug-use disorders receive support and make the pharmaceutical industry and opioid manufacturers pay for deceptive marketing practices.

We'll lift the arbitrary cap on new Consumption and Treatment Services sites, which includes safe injection programs, approving applications from unserved communities, like those in rural and Northern Ontario, and those offering culturally-competent programs for diverse and Indigenous communities. We'll also support the 24/7 operation of these sites in key locations and provide additional support to safely reduce needle debris. We'll reactivate the Opioid Emergency Task Force – which didn't meet once during the Ford Conservatives' four years in office – and better research the opioid crisis' impact on different communities, as well as new harm reduction and pain management approaches.



WE'LL TARGET ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS THAT PRODUCE AND TRAFFIC ILLICIT DRUGS WHILE ENSURING THOSE WITH DRUG-USE DISORDERS RECEIVE SUPPORT AND MAKE THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AND OPIOID MANUFACTURERS PAY FOR DECEPTIVE MARKETING PRACTICES.



A STRONGER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Protecting your right to care for generations to come

Finish the fight against COVID-19

Ontario Liberals will:

- Add the COVID-19 vaccine to list of required vaccines for schools
- Ensure broad access to antiviral drugs to treat COVID-19
- Combat vaccine misinformation and support business that opt to check for vaccination status
- Require workplaces treat COVID outbreaks as an occupational health issue
- Require vaccinations for front-line health and education workers

The Ford Conservatives' erratic, political and inconsistent approach to the pandemic prolonged lockdowns and suffering. We'll stay focused on what matters – keeping people healthy and safe while the world continues to grapple with COVID. We'll do this by ensuring broad access to antiviral drugs to treat COVID and improve our understanding and treatment for those with long or persistent COVID. We'll maintain secure proof of vaccination infrastructure for businesses that want to use it and require workplaces to treat COVID outbreaks as an occupational health issue. We'll also run an ongoing robust outreach campaign to combat vaccine misinformation and continue to reach more people with vaccines and boosters.

Finally, to protect people from transmission and getting seriously sick – especially our kids and the most vulnerable – we'll require all front-line health care and education workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19, and add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of nine other universal vaccines kids need for school.

Prepare for future health crises

Ontario Liberals will:

- Permanently increase laboratory testing capacity
- Stockpile in-home rapid tests and high-quality masks
- Conduct a public inquiry to learn from the COVID pandemic
- Build an Ontario pandemic resilience hub and plan for future crises – one that must be reviewed and updated regularly
- Reverse planned cuts to public health units

We can take lessons from this pandemic to build up our resilience in the face of future threats and rebuild trust in evidence-based decision-making. We'll do this by improving access to PCR testing today while permanently increasing laboratory capacity for future testing. We'll also make sure Ontario has a robust stockpile of free in-home rapid tests and high-quality masks. We'll conduct an independent public inquiry to review what happened during this pandemic, building on the reviews done to date – establishing an all-party committee to lead the response. This will result in an Ontario pandemic plan that will receive regular mandatory and public reviews and updates, led by a new pandemic resilience hub. The pandemic has shown the absolute necessity of public health, so we'll also reverse the Ford Conservatives' planned cuts and strengthen governance of public health.



WE CAN TAKE LESSONS FROM THIS PANDEMIC TO BUILD UP OUR RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF FUTURE THREATS AND REBUILD TRUST IN EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING.

Properly pay health care workers and prevent burnout

Ontario Liberals will:

- Repeal the wage-capping Bill 124 and give raises to health care workers and those working short-staffed shifts
- Forgive all student loans for nurses, paramedics and other health care workers on the front lines of COVID-19
- Guarantee access to mental health services for all health professionals
- Establish and enforce protest exclusion zones around health care buildings
- Deliver fair and consistent pay with workers across home and community care, long-term care and hospitals

Delivering all the care we need means we need the people to do it. Before the pandemic, less than 6% of nurses left the profession each year. Today, that's more than doubled to 15%. The same trends are happening across health roles. We'll make sure these workers are valued and paid more, can save more and feel more supported by repealing the wage-capping Bill 124 and providing health care heroes with the raises they deserve – including a minimum wage increase to \$25 for personal support workers (PSWs). We'll also provide additional wages for every person on a short-staffed shift – as well as deliver fair and consistent pay for workers across home and community care, long-term care and hospitals and a fair wage differential between PSWs, Registered Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses.

We'll also forgive all student loans for nurses, PSWs, paramedics and other health care workers who were on the front-lines during COVID-19 – as well as guarantee access to mental health services for all health professionals. Finally, we'll establish and enforce protest exclusion zones around health care buildings to protect patients and staff.

Modernize health care

Ontario Liberals will:

- Make the option for video, phone, email and text visits with primary health care providers permanent and universal in appropriate cases
- Expand pharmacist scope of practice to prescribe for minor ailments and administer more vaccines
- Invest in engaging health initiatives, including around concussions, strokes and smoking

The pandemic shook up Ontario's health care system, proving it could adapt to new challenges quickly. As we build capacity in and better fund health care, we'll continue that spirit of innovation by making care more modern, integrated, flexible and accessible for all as they move through the health system. This includes making the option for video, phone, email and text visits with primary health care providers permanent and universal when appropriate – always giving the option for in-person care. We'll also embrace approaches and technologies that enhance patient experiences, improve efficiency and reduce burdens on health care providers – including ending the use of fax machines.

Throughout the pandemic, pharmacists played a critical role in ensuring access to care for Ontarians and provided millions of vaccines and tests. So pharmacists can continue to support our health system, we'll expand pharmacists' scope of practice to include prescribing for minor ailments (like pink eye, urinary tract infections, menstrual cramps and insect bites) and allow them to administer more vaccines. We'll invest in engaging preventative health initiatives that teach people about their health, including raising awareness about the signs of stroke and concussion safety. We'll also charge a fee to the tobacco industry, making back the \$44 million spent on efforts to prevent or get people to quit smoking under Smoke Free Ontario.

ECONOMY

A PLACE TO GROW ECONOMIC DIGNITY

For the last two years, much of Ontario hasn't been "open for business." The pandemic's devastating impacts on people's jobs and small businesses were made worse by the Ford Conservatives' chaotic decision making. They scrapped paid sick days, minimum wage increases and worker protections when people needed them most. On top of trends around automation, gig work and off-shoring, people are feeling more and more left behind.

Even simple things, like being able to pay for groceries or take a day off, feel harder. We need to get the fundamentals right when it comes to our economy. Not just create jobs, but make sure those jobs are well paid and allow for work-life balance. Not just generate wealth, but see that wealth spread to everyone.

Our Ontario Liberal plan creates approximately 400,000 new jobs – bringing economic dignity, much needed relief and a better deal to the businesses, workers and families who call Ontario home.





ECONOMIC DIGNITY FOR WORKERS

A fair economy where people can earn with dignity

- Give 10 paid sick days to all workers
- Build to a four-day work week
- Ban unfair and underpaid gig and contract work
- Make sure every worker is covered by benefits



MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESSES

Helping businesses bounce back stronger than ever

- Eliminate taxes for and give loans to small businesses rebuilding
- Cut fees and help make small businesses more competitive
- Celebrate self-employment and help entrepreneurs succeed
- Invest in the hard-hit industries that make Ontario a great place to live, play and visit
- Strengthen supply chains and reshore key industries
- Invest in e-commerce, cybersecurity and innovation
- Take control of Ontario's immigration and bring newcomers with the skills we need
- Bring Ontario to the rest of the world

ECONOMIC DIGNITY FOR WORKERS

A fair economy where people can earn with dignity

Give 10 paid sick days to all workers

Ontario Liberals will:

- Provide 10 paid sick days for all workers
- Ban employer-required doctor's notes
- Reimburse businesses for costs up to \$200 a day

When the Ford Conservatives eliminated Ontario's paid sick day guarantee, it hurt workers. Rather than admit a mistake, they refused to bring back paid sick days even during a pandemic. Only after 412 days of public outcry and pressure did they allow for three temporary paid sick days.

As we navigate our way out of the pandemic, we'll provide 10 paid, job-protected sick days for all workers. Paid sick days can be used for getting tested, vaccinated, isolating or providing care to others. The days can also be used for major life events that require stepping back from work, like a death in the family or pregnancy loss. We'll also reintroduce a ban on employers making their workers produce a sick note in order to access the leave they need, and give businesses up to \$200 a day to compensate for the costs of workers taking more sick days.

Build to a four-day work week

Ontario Liberals will:

- Launch a four-day work week demonstration to show the potential

During the pandemic, people showed remarkable flexibility, innovation and resolve in embracing new ways of doing work. At the same time, people felt more depressed, anxious and overwhelmed. Adopting a four-day work week would be another change, but one that experts say could boost quality of life, work-life balance and much needed relief without a loss in productivity. We'll work with businesses and labour groups of all types to design and evaluate the model. If a four-day work week demonstrates potential in Ontario, people could have many more "Family Day Weekends" – extra time to invest in their wellbeing and spend with loved ones.

Ban unfair and underpaid gig and contract work

Ontario Liberals will:

- Protect gig workers
- Bring back equal pay for equal work and protections for on-call workers
- Ensure production quotas are fair and safe
- Make it easier to organize and join a private-sector union

People who work for app-based platforms do the work of employees, but aren't classified that way under the law. Gig work is work. We will modernize the definition of "employee" to include those in the gig economy so they get better access to benefits and protections, like sick days, workplace insurance, holiday and severance pay and more. We'll do this in a way that ensures workers can maintain the flexibility and independence many enjoy.

When they took office, the Ford Conservatives scrapped basic, common-sense worker protections. We'll bring back these protections, including one that ensures everyone is paid equally and fairly for the work they do regardless of gender or employment status – including part-time, casual and temporary workers. We'll also bring back rules that give workers a minimum of three hours' pay for being on-call when they are not called in or work less than three hours.

We'll also require companies that have production or 'piece rate' quotas, such as parcel delivery services, to disclose these quotas to employees and we'll help ensure these quotas don't push people too hard and violate occupational health or safety standards. Finally, we'll help make it easier to organize and join a private sector union through amendments to the Employment Standards Act and Ontario Labour Relations Act.

Make sure every worker is covered by benefits

Ontario Liberals will:

- Create a package of high-quality, affordable benefits for all
- Help small businesses transition to providing portable benefits
- Match savings up to \$1,000 for low-income earners
- Require private employer benefits to include mental health services

Around half of working people in Ontario don't have access to basic workplace benefits like prescription drugs, dental care, vision care, mental health care, parental leave and retirement savings. We'll create a package of high-quality, affordable benefits that everyone can use, including self-employed, gig, contract and creative workers. Employers without

comparable benefits would be required to enroll their staff while offering employees the option to opt-out.

We'll encourage employers to contribute to the cost of the package, which helps with talent retention. Small businesses will be given an extra two years before automatic enrolment is required and be provided with a tax credit to contribute up to 25% of their employees' benefits. We'll also make it easier for smaller employers or individual people to join pension plans, and provide low-income earners with dollar-for-dollar matching up to \$1,000 to help save for retirement or a rainy day.

As one part of our plan to get everyone the help they need, we'll also require all employer health benefit plans to cover mental health services, and include mental health coverage in our new portable benefits plan.



WE'LL CREATE A PACKAGE OF HIGH-QUALITY, AFFORDABLE BENEFITS THAT EVERYONE CAN USE, INCLUDING SELF-EMPLOYED, GIG, CONTRACT AND CREATIVE WORKERS.



MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESSES

Helping businesses bounce back stronger than ever

Eliminate taxes for and give loans to small businesses rebuilding

Ontario Liberals will:

- Eliminate corporate taxes for two years for small businesses deeply hurt by the pandemic
- Loan an additional \$300 million to tens of thousands of small businesses

Small businesses are the heart of Ontario's economy, so they are central to our recovery plan. The Ford Conservatives' inadequate business grants left too many businesses without help during the biggest disruption in a generation. We'll suspend corporate income tax for small businesses most impacted by the pandemic for 2022 and 2023 – with relief scaled to losses in revenues and eliminated entirely for businesses that lost more than 50% of revenues as a result of the pandemic.

We'll also boost the flow of capital to small businesses to fuel economic recovery and job creation, partnering with financial institutions and credit unions to backstop loans and support tens of thousands of small businesses with start-up costs like equipment and real estate through a \$300 million loan portfolio, with targeted outreach to small businesses led by women and people of colour.

Cut fees and help make small businesses more competitive

Ontario Liberals will:

- Eliminate incorporation fees for new business start-ups
- Reduce regulatory burdens on small businesses
- Cap credit card fees charged to businesses
- Cap commission fees for businesses using outside delivery services
- End the Ford Conservatives' clustering of cannabis stores around small businesses

We've heard from small business owners and the past few years have been hard enough for them without red tape and administrative hoops. We'll adopt a mandatory "small business lens" to all new regulations to make sure we understand the impact on small business owners and develop clear and credible measures to track our progress on reducing regulatory burdens. We'll also work with federal partners to cap onerous credit card transaction fees charged to businesses, as well as introduce a permanent commission cap for restaurant food delivery service.

In recent years, Ontario's downtowns and main streets have been flooded by new cannabis stores, crowding out other small businesses. We'll end the clustering of cannabis stores by requiring a minimum distance between them, using a similar model to the one currently applied between stores and schools.



WE'LL SUSPEND CORPORATE INCOME TAX FOR SMALL BUSINESSES MOST IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC FOR 2022 AND 2023.

Celebrate self-employment and help entrepreneurs succeed

Ontario Liberals will:

- Eliminate incorporation fees for new business start-ups
- Launch a one-stop 311-type service to help businesses navigate government supports
- Add the option of self-employment to high school curriculum

For many, the pandemic has fueled an entrepreneurial spirit where people are more eager to be their own boss and have control over where, when and how they work. We want to encourage these entrepreneurs and help them succeed by eliminating incorporation fees for new business start-ups.

Since no business should miss out on support or important information because of bureaucratic confusion, we'll also launch an easy-to-use, one-stop 311-type service with self-directed tools and live agent support to help business owners and self-employed entrepreneurs navigate regulations and get advice on growing their businesses. As well, we'll ensure the high school careers curriculum promotes the option of self-employment and the value of entrepreneurship. Finally, we'll explore ways with federal partners to promote and support employee ownership models as owners sell or pass on their businesses.

Invest in hard-hit industries that make Ontario a great place to live, play and visit

Ontario Liberals will:

- Restore funding for arts, music, culture and sports
- Reintroduce the Indigenous Culture Fund
- Create and protect spaces to learn, be creative and play
- Help revitalize Ontario's tourism industry

Ontario's arts, culture, tourism, heritage and sport sectors – which create jobs and improve our quality of life – were devastated by the pandemic. Even before 2020, the Ford Conservatives' cuts to these sectors made it harder for people to do their favourite activities. We'll restore funding, grants and donation matching for the arts, music and culture – fully implementing Ontario's Culture Strategy. We'll reintroduce the \$5 million Indigenous Culture Fund that the Ford Conservatives scrapped in 2019 and bring back the Ontario Sports and Recreation Communities Fund to help people live healthy, active lives.

We'll keep filmed-in-Ontario productions strong with stable and competitive film and TV tax support – and we'll reform the Ontario Arts Council and Ontario Trillium Foundation boards, appointing people with the skills and experience to uplift the arts and culture sector.

We'll also invest \$50 million to build, purchase or refurbish performing arts studios, visual arts galleries and event spaces – being sure that this includes more spaces to feature work from Black, Indigenous and other artists of colour. Finally, we'll help cities create municipal tourism strategies and make investments in Ontario's cycling networks so people can enjoy the incredible experiences available right here at home.

Strengthen supply chains and reshore key industries

Ontario Liberals will:

- Bring more of our critical manufacturing capacity back to Ontario
- Invest in a robust domestic supply chain for vaccines and other biomanufacturing

The pandemic underscored the consequences of reduced manufacturing capacity here at home. We'll work with partners and use

strategic public procurement to bring more production back to our province and promote made-in-Ontario both here and around the world. We'll also advance biomanufacturing and life sciences in Ontario to improve pandemic-readiness while supporting the province's economic growth. This will include targeted investments in research, talent and a domestic supply chain to deliver vaccines, therapeutic drugs and personal protective equipment across the province.

Invest in e-commerce, cybersecurity and innovation

Ontario Liberals will:

- Fund programs that help small and medium-sized businesses go digital
- Prevent data breaches by promoting affordable cybersecurity
- Modernize privacy, data and intellectual property laws
- Invest in high-potential Ontario companies with proven track records of innovation

As more of our lives have moved online, so has our economy. We'll help Ontario businesses go digital with dedicated programs, including special streams for rural and agri-businesses. We'll also reduce the risks to online transactions by promoting low-cost cybersecurity solutions for businesses to keep their data safe.

Solving Ontario's most complex problems and future-proofing our economy relies on people's great ideas and technologies. We'll create a business environment that makes people want to work and innovate here – modernizing Ontario's outdated privacy, data and intellectual property laws to better protect people's personal information and keep businesses secure. We'll also embrace the economic power of intangible assets and encourage more people and businesses to

protect their intellectual property through patents. Finally, we'll make strategic investments through a Grow Ontario fund in high-potential Ontario companies with proven track records of innovation and commercialization.

Fuel our economy with green growth

Ontario Liberals will:

- Create 25,000 green jobs
- Establish Ontario as a global leader in cleantech, clean energy and manufacturing and electric vehicles solutions
- Harness hydrogen power as an economic driver

The world economy is going green. Rather than adapt and lead Ontario into a new chapter, the Ford Conservatives resisted and stonewalled instead of getting Ontario's economy ready to compete in the global green marketplace. We'll reinvest every dollar from a strengthened industrial carbon pricing plan to bring down emissions, advance cleantech and create jobs. This includes creating 25,000 new green jobs and kick-starting a made-in-Ontario Green Jobs Fund.

The popularity of electric vehicles is a huge opportunity for Ontario to cut emissions, attract investment and boost our auto sector. Our plan will make Ontario a leader in electric vehicle production – leveraging our automotive supply chain with the United States to ensure Ontario's EV manufacturing sector is globally competitive. Finally, we'll harness the power of hydrogen to help businesses get to net-zero and break into new and competitive markets.

Take control of Ontario's immigration and bring newcomers with the skills we need

Ontario Liberals will:

- Put Ontario in control of its immigration, like in Québec
- Bring internationally-trained professionals with the skills we need
- Support newcomers who want to become business owners

Ontario's workforce is in desperate need of specific skills. For instance, as we build 1.5 million new homes, as well as building and repairing hundreds of new hospitals and schools, we need a lot more people in the skilled trades who can be those builders. Immigration to Ontario is currently a federal issue, but it's time Ontario take over its own immigration and gain control over who we welcome to our province, just as Québec has. Ontario knows best what skills it needs, so Ontario should be in the driver's seat. We'll also ensure a dedicated Immigration Minister supports these newcomers to work in their field of expertise and develops a new generation of entrepreneurs – including by creating a pathway to permanent residency for international graduates of Ontario's universities and colleges who invest in or purchase a local business.

Bring Ontario to the rest of the world

Ontario Liberals will:

- Expand Ontario's network of international trade offices and services
- Help the agrifood sector export more goods

Ontario businesses are some of the best in the world – but they face significant obstacles to exporting, challenges made worse by the pandemic. The Ford Conservatives failed over and over again to prioritize businesses' export needs – closing Ontario's Ministry of

International Trade and slashing international trade spending by more than a third. We'll end this pattern of underinvestment and champion Ontario as a world-class place to do business. We'll invest \$50 million to expand the province's network of international trade offices and strengthen export support services, in turn creating thousands of new jobs here in Ontario. We'll work to harmonize and reduce interprovincial trade barriers and also enhance the Ontario Food Exports Program, including the hiring of additional geographic specialists to maximize export opportunities in agrifood and wine.

Measure economic success by quality of life

Ontario Liberals will:

- Track and publish metrics that impact people's lives, like housing affordability and wage growth
- Set ambitious goals aligned with these metrics to define success

Economic growth is a critical benchmark of Ontario's success, but it shouldn't be the only metric of success. Without more sophisticated tools in place, we can't know if gains we see in GDP and productivity are shared by all Ontarians or leaving most of them further behind. We'll adopt a quality of life framework to keep track of what counts. This framework will be consistent with the OECD Better Life Initiative and evaluate key indicators like housing affordability, wealth and income inequality, wage growth and disposable income.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

A PLACE TO GROW UP

Over these past two years, it was hard to keep learning. Our kids struggled with opening and closing classes, teachers felt disconnected with remote learning and parents were overwhelmed. To make matters worse, the Ford Conservatives targeted our schools and teachers – planning to fire 10,000 teachers, increase class sizes and move more classes online just months before the pandemic began.

Our province and our kids deserve the best education in the world, not chaos and disruption. A good education is the best tool we have to help people find success and build a stronger, more prosperous Ontario – and that's true at any age. We don't want learning to end after high school, so we'll make it easier than ever to find, afford and benefit from higher education and training – helping people learn skills that will get them hired into good, well-paying careers.

Our Ontario Liberal plan supports our students and gets everyone ready for a career – be it that first great job or the next big opportunity.





SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

Setting our kids up for success from Kindergarten to Grade 12

- Cap class sizes in all grades at 20 students
- Reinststate an optional Grade 13
- End mandatory online learning
- Replace standardized testing and end streaming
- Hire an additional special education worker for every school
- Update curriculum to add more Indigenous, French, diverse and modern learning
- Support students' health and wellbeing
- Make the largest investment to build and repair schools in Ontario's history
- Improve the way we fund and listen to school communities



READY FOR A CAREER

Preparing people at every age for new opportunities

- Cover tuition costs for those who need it
- Make campuses better, safer places for everyone
- Get more people into apprenticeships and the skilled trades
- Create a career roadmap to help people make learning decisions
- Help people get the skills and jobs they want
- Help Northern, rural and remote communities access education and training

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

Setting our kids up for success
from Kindergarten to Grade 12

Cap class sizes in all grades at 20 students

Ontario Liberals will:

- Cap class sizes at 20 students for all grades
- Hire 10,000 more teachers

As our kids try to catch up on learning lost during the pandemic, they need their teachers' focus and attention more than ever – so they can not just teach, but reach them. While the Ford Conservatives try to cut education funding and raise class sizes, we'll cap class sizes at 20 students in every grade across the province – starting first with schools where this would have the biggest impact.

Capping class sizes means we'll need more teachers. To reach this goal, we'll recruit teachers from other provinces – including those whose religious freedoms are being threatened by Quebec's Bill 21. We'll also help qualified teachers immigrate to Ontario and attract some of the 80,000 Ontario certified teachers not currently employed by schools back to the teaching profession. Finally, we'll increase the number of new teachers, particularly in French language programs, by supporting teacher education programs.



**WE'LL CAP CLASS SIZES AT
20 STUDENTS IN EVERY GRADE
ACROSS THE PROVINCE.**

Reinstate an optional Grade 13

Ontario Liberals will:

- Reinstate Grade 13 as an optional fifth year of high school
- Offer classes on mental health, financial literacy, taxes and more

The pandemic stole so much learning and so many experiences from students. They want their high school time back, so we'll create an option for all current high school students to register in a Grade 13 at no penalty to them or their school. This new grade will allow students to make up for learning and credits where needed, as well as offer new credits in mental health and resilience, financial literacy and taxes, experiential or co-op placements and post-high school pathway planning.

End mandatory online learning

Ontario Liberals will:

- End the Ford Conservatives' mandatory online learning
- Create high-quality online options for high school students

Online learning can be valuable for some students and families, but it should always be optional – something the Ford Conservatives don't understand. They planned to permanently move K-12 education online, outsource its delivery and require mandatory online courses – a plan that isn't supported by credible research. Rather, it's a way for them to cut publicly-funded education, increase class sizes and save money by shortchanging students. We'll end mandatory online learning while continuing to invest in high-quality, optional online resources and courses for high school students.

Replace standardized testing and end streaming

Ontario Liberals will:

- End academic streaming, which unfairly limits a student's future learning potential
- Make report cards easier to understand
- End EQAO tests and replace it with a new assessment strategy

Streaming students into 'academic' and 'non-academic' classes in Grades 9 and 10 can permanently and prematurely limit a student's future learning and job potential. We'll end streaming with the appropriate supports – including smaller class sizes, teacher training and additional help for students experiencing learning gaps. We'll also address how streaming can perpetuate anti-Black racism and further segregate students from marginalized backgrounds, including before high school and through special education.

We'll also modernize school report cards to make them easier to understand and more meaningfully communicate progress to families. As well, we'll end EQAO assessments so students and teachers can focus on making up for lost learning during the pandemic. Since we'll need a way to measure how our kids are catching up in math and literacy, we'll collaborate with parents, teachers and education experts to develop a new assessment strategy to capture and address the pandemic's impact on learning.



WE'LL HIRE A NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKER FOR EVERY SCHOOL - MORE THAN 5,000 PROFESSIONALS - TO REDUCE WAIT TIMES FOR SERVICES.

Hire an additional special education worker for every school

Ontario Liberals will:

- Hire 5,000 more special education workers
- Reduce wait times for special education

So many families told us how the pandemic greatly disrupted the education of their kids with special needs. Because routine and focused attention are so important for these students, we'll hire a new special education worker for every school – more than 5,000 professionals – to reduce wait times for services and help close learning gaps, including additional support for students with autism and reading disabilities.

Update curriculum to add more Indigenous, French, diverse and modern learning

Ontario Liberals will:

- Update curriculum to reflect a more modern and diverse Ontario
- Bring back and expand Indigenous history, languages and culture lessons – including learning about residential schools
- Support learning French and other languages

What students learn in the classroom should not only be up-to-date and modern, but they should also be able to see themselves reflected. We'll review and update curriculum and evaluation tools – working closely with educators, school boards, parents and experts to make sure lessons and learning materials include diverse communities.

As part of this curriculum update, we'll bring back Indigenous lesson plans the Ford Conservatives cut and make them mandatory, including on the painful history of Ontario's residential schools. We'll also make it easier

to choose a First Nations language class alongside more support for French learning. In fact, we'll increase funding for language lessons of all kinds since knowing multiple languages is so important in our globally-connected world.

Support students' health and wellbeing

Ontario Liberals will:

- Ensure no student waits more for critical mental health help
- Hire 1,000 more mental health workers for students and staff
- Make mental health first aid training more available to staff
- Give a free breakfast to every student who needs one
- Get elementary school students moving three times more a day

Two years of a pandemic dealt a devastating blow to the mental health of all our kids who feel more isolated, anxious and uncertain about the future. We need to connect with and inspire students to learn, interact, engage and succeed. In 2019, the Ford Conservatives cut planned funding to student mental health. We'll hire 1,000 more mental health professionals to directly support students and staff year-round, to eliminate community service wait times and focus especially on culturally-competent services that understand and affirm all kinds of lived experiences. We'll also make mental health first aid training available for all education workers.

We know that nutritious food helps kids learn and focus, so we'll ensure no student goes hungry by providing a free Ontario-grown breakfast for every K-12 student who needs one by expanding the Student Nutrition Program. We'll also make sure elementary students have a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity a day (up from the current 20 minutes).

Make the largest investment to build and repair schools in Ontario's history

Ontario Liberals will:

- Invest an additional \$10 billion to build and repair more schools
- Make schools more modern with technology
- Put schools and community hubs in the same building

Ontario is growing, but more students shouldn't mean the quality and access to learning suffers. To keep up with this growth, we'll build new schools and add to existing schools to fit more students where needed. We'll also make sure schools already built are accessible and in a good condition measured by publicly-reported standards, especially when it comes to ventilation.

We'll build and repair schools by canceling the Ford Conservatives' misguided Highway 413 project and reinvesting that \$10 billion in schools and eliminating the repair backlog. We'll also put new technology and devices in classrooms to close the digital divide, increasing the existing budget for such resources. Finally, we'll support schools as community hubs, reverse budget cuts to after-hours community programs in schools and encourage schools and community services to share buildings so students and their families can easily access services, especially in rural and Northern Ontario.



WE'LL BUILD AND REPAIR SCHOOLS BY CANCELING THE FORD CONSERVATIVES' MISGUIDED HIGHWAY 413 PROJECT AND REINVESTING THAT \$10 BILLION IN SCHOOLS AND ELIMINATING THE REPAIR BACKLOG.

Improve the way we fund and listen to school communities

The Ontario Liberals will:

- Review and update how elementary and high schools get funded
- Protect the right of students, parents and education workers to be heard

The way Ontario funds schools is based on a decades-old, one-size-fits-all formula – one that forces smaller and rural schools to close while also failing to upgrade schools in larger, fast-growing communities. It's time to refresh that formula top to bottom – including a review to ensure equitable access to Education Development Charges. We'll also consider the needs of Franco-Ontarians, students with special needs, people living in rural and Northern Ontario and those in fast-growing neighbourhoods in this new formula.

Finally, we'll protect the rights of parents, students and education workers to be heard in evidence-based decision making by reconvening the Education Partnership Table. We'll listen to associations, school boards, unions, municipalities and parent groups on the commitments we're making around learning.



WE'LL LISTEN TO ASSOCIATIONS, SCHOOL BOARDS, UNIONS, MUNICIPALITIES AND PARENT GROUPS ON THE COMMITMENTS WE'RE MAKING AROUND LEARNING.

READY FOR A CAREER

Preparing people at every age for new opportunities

Cover tuition costs for those who need it

Ontario Liberals will:

- More than double OSAP funding, making it more generous and easier to access
- Continue the tuition freeze
- Eliminate interest on provincial student loans
- Bring adult learners and other training supports into OSAP

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) helps students pay for college and university, but the Ford Conservatives cut the program's budget by more than half – forcing thousands of students to take on more debt or leave school. We'll reverse these damaging cuts, giving significantly more grants that students never have to pay back and ensuring no qualified student is prevented from pursuing higher learning due to a lack of resources. This will include waiving post-secondary application fees for students in need.

We'll also keep tuition costs from rising and eliminate the interest rate so current and future student loans become easier to pay off. As well, we'll simplify OSAP and expand eligibility – making it the 'one window' people go to for help to learn at any stage of life by also integrating employment training supports.

As part of our child care and health care plans, we'll fully cover tuition for all early childhood education and personal support worker programs at Ontario colleges, as well as medical and nursing students who commit to working in rural and remote communities.



Make campuses better, safer places for everyone

Ontario Liberals will:

- Help colleges and universities create safe, inclusive campuses
- Support campus mental health and gender-based violence prevention
- Scrap the Ford Conservatives' policy that cut budgets for student-led groups
- Create an international student strategy that helps their learning and encourages them to stay after graduation

A student's time on campus should always be enriching and engaging, so we'll give funding to colleges and universities to create safe, healthy and inclusive environments for students, including through more mental health supports and gender-based violence prevention programs.

Behind many of the efforts to make campuses better are student-led groups, so we'll scrap the Ford Conservatives' harmful Student Choice Initiative that unfairly targeted student groups and gave them less funding to work with. We'll also work with colleges and universities to develop an international student strategy that better supports these students and encourages more of them to stay after graduation.



WE'LL ALSO GIVE \$2,000 TO THOSE WHO GO INTO APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING BY DOUBLING THE EXISTING FEDERAL INCENTIVE GRANT.

Get more people into apprenticeships and the skilled trades

Ontario Liberals will:

- Make it easier to learn about and find apprenticeships
- Bring back shop classes
- Give \$2,000 to those who go into apprenticeships
- Support new ways to become apprentices

Skilled trades jobs – like plumbers, electricians and construction workers – offer some of the most in-demand, stable and well-paying careers in Ontario. On top of that, tradespeople are needed to accomplish everything we want to build or repair in the province, from schools and hospitals to affordable housing and public transit.

To get more people into the skilled trades – especially those underrepresented in the trades – we'll enhance the apprenticeship system, working with unions, employers and schools to promote these great opportunities and make it easier to participate in an apprenticeship. This includes expanding the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and reintroducing shop classes in more high schools, as well as funding union and employer-led training at more comparable levels to colleges. We'll also give \$2,000 to those who go into apprenticeship training by doubling the existing federal incentive grant.

Create a career roadmap to help people make learning decisions

Ontario Liberals will:

- Launch an easy-to-use website to compare schools and training programs
- Expand access to free career counseling for everyone
- Promote innovative pathways for learning

Choosing the right programs, schools and careers can be overwhelming. We'll help by launching an easy-to-use website for people to navigate Ontario's colleges, universities and training programs – including information on costs and post-graduation outcomes like jobs and potential earnings. We'll also expand universal access to free career counseling with targeted services for people in communities underrepresented in certain careers. Finally, we'll promote innovative learning options – like joint college-university programs and “learn-while-your-earn” on-the-job training.

Help people get the skills and jobs they want

Ontario Liberals will:

- Create more employer-informed learning and training options
- Create a \$1 billion fund for new programs and increase operating grants to colleges, universities and training schools
- Help people learn new, career-focused skills quickly through short, specialized programs

We'll help more people get on-the-job training by funding opportunities through the Canada-Ontario Job Grant and SkillsAdvance – and we'll create new targeted support for young people unable to find secure employment. We'll also approve new college, university and training programs more quickly and offer greater flexibility to adapt those programs to meet the evolving needs of the job market. So

colleges, universities and training schools don't have to rely solely on tuition increases to make these transformations, we'll create a \$1 billion fund and increase operating grants.

Short, highly-focused programs called microcredentials can also help teach new skills quickly. We'll build high-quality, career-focused microcredential programs in partnership with employers and educators, and we'll enhance the external review of existing programs for quality, making sure outcomes are tracked and learners are protected.

Help Northern, rural and remote communities access education and training

Ontario Liberals will:

- Invest in innovative, high-quality online learning options
- Fund Northern, rural and remote colleges and universities undergoing a transition

Training for a good career shouldn't force a move to a large city and take people out of communities they love. We'll invest in improving online options for higher education and training – including through virtual and augmented reality tools – to bring more learning to rural and remote students. We'll also ensure the sustainability of post-secondary learning and training opportunities in Northern Ontario, including support for Laurentian University and establishing Université de Sudbury as an independent francophone university with an arrangement to make it easy for students to transfer credits between the two.

ENVIRONMENT

A PLACE TO GROW SUSTAINABLY

The climate emergency is happening now. Ontarians know this – they see it when they’re driven out of their homes because of floods and fires. In intense heat waves and bitter cold fronts, breaking new records each year. Ontario used to be a global leader in climate action – then the Ford Conservatives dragged Ontario backwards. Their climate pitch amounted to little more than faulty gas pump stickers, a \$30-million failed carbon pricing lawsuit and ripped up clean energy contracts. Carbon pollution is up, climate experts are being fired or resigning and our green spaces are shrinking.

Families are paying the costs of the Ford Conservatives’ approach to climate in higher insurance rates and food prices. Job seekers are left with a low-wage gig economy instead of a high-wage green economy.

Our Ontario Liberal plan gets Ontario back on track by tackling today’s climate emergency, cleaning our air, changing how we move and creating jobs through climate action.



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TACKLING TODAY'S CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Building an economy that pollutes less while creating jobs

- Cut Ontario's carbon pollution in half by 2030
- Create 25,000 green jobs and train people for them
- Charge carbon polluters and reward companies who lower their emissions
- Ban new natural gas plants and transition to a fully clean energy supply
- Protect 30% of our land and expand the Greenbelt
- Plant 800 million trees



CHANGING HOW WE MOVE

Saving people money and protecting our clean air

- Cut transit fares to \$1 per ride until 2024
- Fund reliable and regional transit
- Make it more affordable and easier to choose an electric car
- Make Ontario where electric battery vehicles are made and sold
- Stop Highway 413 and responsibly maintain crucial highways
- Make it more affordable and safer to bike, walk and drive

TACKLING TODAY'S CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Building an economy that pollutes less while creating jobs

Cut Ontario's carbon pollution in half

Ontario Liberals will:

- Cut carbon and methane pollution by more than 50% by 2030
- Create a methane performance standard and speed up the replacement of natural gas with clean energy

Two decades ago, more and more children developed asthma and other illnesses because of air pollution. Ontario Liberals responded by closing every coal plant in the province and putting a price on carbon pollution. Carbon pollution fell by 24% while asthma rates and smog days fell with it.

Now, we'll cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 – meaning that Ontario reduces carbon pollution more than we create it.

Because methane is 80 times stronger than carbon dioxide, we'll also cut current methane levels in half. We'll work to reduce methane leaks and implement a methane performance standard for Ontario's natural gas to reduce emissions from home heating and support the increased use of renewable natural gas – all done in close collaboration with farmers and ranchers.



WE'LL CUT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 50% BELOW 2005 LEVELS BY 2030 AND ACHIEVE NET-ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2050.

Create 25,000 green jobs and train people for them

Ontario Liberals will:

- Create 25,000 green jobs
- Provide new support and training for workers

Tackling the climate emergency can create good, well-paying jobs – but only if Ontario makes smart, strategic investments. We'll do just that – investing \$9 billion over the next four years into a clean economy plan. Doing so will create 25,000 green jobs which we'll prepare people for through no-cost access to new apprenticeships, training and skills building programs. We'll also apply a climate equity lens, ensuring every community is supported through and included in our transition to a cleaner, greener province and economy.

Charge carbon polluters and reward companies who lower their emissions

Ontario Liberals will:

- Improve carbon pricing for businesses and create a new carbon offset system
- Provide businesses with predictable support to reduce pollution

Under the Ford Conservatives, Ontario businesses have gone through three different carbon pricing programs in just four years. We'll replace chaos with collaboration to strengthen our existing industrial carbon pricing system and ensure businesses do their part to meet our pollution targets. We'll also create a robust carbon offset system to support businesses that reduce their pollution while fostering innovative carbon-cutting solutions.

We'll require high emitting industries, which create up to 30% of Ontario's total carbon pollution, to cut their emissions further by strengthening the Emissions Performance Standards in line with our 2030 target. We'll

reinvest and match all proceeds into grants, tax credits and loan guarantees through a Green Jobs Fund to support made-in-Ontario clean tech and green jobs – providing industries with predictable support to lower emissions.

Ban new natural gas plants and transition to a fully clean energy supply

Ontario Liberals will:

- Transition to a fully clean electricity supply
- Ban new natural gas plants and phase out our reliance on it
- Eliminate connection fees for rooftop solar charging panels
- Support Indigenous and Northern clean energy projects

Emissions from electricity generated through natural gas are forecasted to increase by over 600% over the next 20 years. This is a huge problem – one that undermines our economic and environmental goals. To help, we'll develop a long-term energy plan that reverses the Ford Conservatives' cuts to energy conservation programs and includes the right, cost-effective mix of nuclear, hydroelectricity and renewables. We'll renew the Ontario Electricity Rebate and transition as quickly as possible to a fully clean energy supply while maintaining reliability and affordability, including by banning new natural gas plants and phasing out our reliance on gas for baseload power.

We'll also eliminate set-up connection fees for rooftop solar charging panels and bidirectional electric vehicle charging, and support projects with Indigenous and Northern communities that reduce reliance on diesel and drive electrification in the remote north – including by supporting completion of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project.

Become a green hydrogen powerhouse

Ontario Liberals will:

- Pursue green hydrogen generation, transportation and storage
- Support business replacing carbon-emitting fuels with hydrogen

Green hydrogen is an alternative fuel generated with clean energy, but the Ford Conservatives delayed producing a clean hydrogen strategy – allowing Québec and British Columbia to surge ahead of us in this sector. Through the Green Jobs Fund, we'll support green hydrogen generation, transportation and storage across the province, including refuelling stations along Highway 401. We'll also make hydrogen attractive to investors by cutting red tape that stands in the way of new hydrogen projects while supporting industries looking to substitute their carbon-emitting fuels for green hydrogen.

Protect 30% of our land and expand the Greenbelt

Ontario Liberals will:

- Create five new provincial parks
- Expand the Greenbelt in step with farmers, local neighbourhoods and Indigenous communities
- Designate 30% of our land as protected areas, up from 10%

Ontario Liberals created the Greenbelt and we are committed to continue protecting these natural lands. We'll use a long-term, science-based approach to bring more lands under the Greenbelt's protection in close collaboration with local and Indigenous communities and farmers. We'll also designate 30% of our land as protected areas by 2030 – up from 10% – and expand the size and number of provincial parks, including expanding Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park.

Get carbon pollution out of our air by planting 800 million trees

Ontario Liberals will:

- Plant 100 million trees a year over the next eight years
- Create 2,000 green jobs for young people

Forests help soak up carbon pollution and keep our air clean and a lack of trees, especially in our cities, creates a heating effect and makes us more vulnerable to flooding. We'll plant 800 million trees over the next eight years – as part of the national commitment to 2 billion – focused on restoring ecosystems and protecting drinking water. Planting this many trees will be the equivalent of taking 500,000 cars off the road and will create 2,000 green jobs for graduating students who want to dedicate a year toward nature-based solutions and engaging local communities on climate action and resilience. Municipalities and every household in Ontario with a yard will be able to get trees through this initiative.

Protect our nature, water and endangered species

Ontario Liberals will:

- Repeal the Ford Conservatives' harmful changes to conservation and environmental legislation
- Work with local governments and Indigenous communities to prepare for extreme weather
- Clean up and reduce pollution in our rivers and lakes
- Support best practices in farming and agriculture
- Better protect endangered and exotic animals

Ontarians love our natural environment and want to see it protected. We agree, so we'll repeal the Ford Conservatives' environmentally-harmful changes to legislation related to conservation, land planning, the environment and endangered species. We'll also strengthen the powers of Ontario's Conservation Authorities to prevent flooding and protect green spaces, farmland, drinking water, biodiversity and species at risk. We'll restore and expand natural infrastructure like wetlands and green roofs and support communities in becoming more resilient to extreme weather through a new \$250 million annual fund.

We'll work closely with municipalities and Indigenous communities to protect and restore Ontario's rivers, lakes, wetlands and watersheds – including Moose Cree First Nation and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. And we'll strengthen oversight and environmental protections over gravel and aggregate mining before approving new mines. We'll clean up the mercury contamination in the St. Clair and English-Wabigoon River system and reduce pollution in Lake Simcoe and the Great Lakes – including lowering road salt runoff harming aquatic ecosystems. We'll also help municipalities install microplastic filtration in drinking and wastewater systems.

Finally, we'll build a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector by supporting best practices that keep soil healthy and maximize carbon storage. And we'll strengthen regulations for zoos and wild exotic animals, including greater restrictions on the breeding and sale of exotic animals.

Cut landfill use by more than half

Ontario Liberals will:

- Divert and recycle 60% of waste from landfills by 2030, and 85% by 2050
- Use organic waste to generate renewable energy
- Reduce plastic pollution and restrict some single-use plastics

Ontario is one of the largest creators of waste per person in the entire world and at current rates we'll run out of landfill capacity in the next 11 to 14 years. As a province, we need to waste less and reuse more.

To help, we'll divert and recycle 60% of waste from landfills by 2030 and 85% by 2050. We'll update ineffective waste management and recycling in industrial and commercial sectors and hold polluters accountable for their waste. We'll also expand the list of products that can be recycled in Blue Bins and implement a landfill ban for food and organic waste – requiring Green Bin programs to work with farmers and fuel producers to harness organic waste for renewable natural gas and reduce methane emissions.

Finally, we'll prevent plastic products from becoming pollution in the first place by restricting certain harmful single-use products, establishing strong standards for plastics – including how much has to be recycled content – and encouraging businesses to use packaging made from biomass-based polymers.

Take the politics out of climate action

Ontario Liberals will:

- Get all parties working together on climate action
- Mandate climate risk reporting for public companies
- Become a net-zero government by 2030

When it comes to climate action, we'll be transparent in our progress and accountable for our results through an independent Environmental Commissioner. We'll take the politics out of climate action by creating an all-party Cabinet committee to find new ways to tackle carbon pollution. We'll also mandate climate risk reporting and disclosures for public companies.

Committed to leading by example, we'll also make the Ontario government net zero by 2030 – swiftly reducing emissions from public service infrastructure and procurement, including leveraging made-in-Ontario clean technologies and issuing more green bonds. We'll also govern based on a science-first approach – bringing back the position of Chief Scientist to do so.

Prepare our homes and buildings for climate change

Ontario Liberals will:

- Provide grants and interest-free loans to retrofit homes and buildings
- Update building codes to energy-efficient and climate resilient standards
- Make retrofits to schools, hospitals and other public sector buildings
- Make it easier to improve energy efficiency and reduce climate risks

We need to retrofit our homes and buildings to address air pollution and climate change. For instance, heating contributes about 20% of Ontario's total emissions – and most homes are not prepared for more frequent flooding. Retrofits also lower families' energy bills. We'll provide 100,000 easy to access grants of up to \$3,000 each year for people and businesses to make high-performance energy and climate-resiliency retrofits, including new windows, insulation, heat pumps and flood protection, in addition to providing interest-free loans for deeper retrofits. We'll also retrofit schools, hospitals, colleges, universities, social housing and other public sector buildings to make them

energy efficient and climate resilient. We'll update the Ontario Building Code so all new buildings and renovations are built to leading energy-efficiency and climate resiliency standards by 2025. We'll position Ontario's forestry sector to lead the way with low-carbon building materials, including making it easier to build tall wood and prefabricated buildings.

As well, families learn too late the terrible toll fires and floods can have. We'll work with municipalities, real estate and insurance leaders to inform people on how they can take action about energy efficiency and flooding or other climate risks for their homes and buildings.

CHANGING HOW WE MOVE

Saving people money and protecting our clean air

Cut transit fares to \$1 per ride until 2024

Ontario Liberals will:

- Cut the cost of public transit fares to \$1 per ride until 2024
- Lower fares for people transferring between transit systems
- Make transit completely free for veterans

Riding on transit creates so many wins for Ontario. It gets cars off the road, moves a greater number of people around the province and can be a more affordable alternative to driving. We want to save people money and move more people on transit – especially right now, as ridership is still a fraction of pre-pandemic levels.

We're going to cut public transit fares to \$1.00 per ride and \$40 for monthly passes until January 2024. This fare rate will be applied to all public transit in Ontario – including municipal,

GO and Ontario Northland transit, with the province fully replacing transit systems' lost revenue. This measure will get an estimated 400,000 car trips off the road each day on top of making transit trips more affordable.

We also don't believe people transferring from one transit service to another should be punished with higher costs, so for the long-term we'll work to integrate fares between transit services within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, ensuring everyone pays less than they do today. Finally, to honour and thank our veterans year-round, we'll make public transit free for all Canadian Armed Forces veteran.

Fund reliable and regional transit

Ontario Liberals will:

- Close gaps in transit networks in every region of Ontario
- Reverse the Ford Conservatives' selling off of railways

Right now, gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles make up about 35% of Ontario's total carbon pollution – making our air harder to breathe, getting people sick and worsening extreme weather caused by climate change. Public transit is the best tool to reduce traffic and have fewer cars on the road, but the pandemic hit local transit services hard. On top of any emergency funds we provide, we'll invest an additional \$375 million in annual transit operating funding – supporting more routes, extended hours of service, improved accessibility and more intercity connections.

Since transit is limited or non-existent in too many parts of the province, we'll make Community Transportation Grants permanent for smaller and rural communities to pay for transit and we'll empower leaders in Northern, Southwestern and Eastern Ontario to coordinate regional transit planning.

Finally, we'll reverse the Ford Conservatives' changes that make it easier to abandon and sell off railway lines. These railways can provide efficient and environmentally-friendly freight movement, relieve congestion on our busy highways and act as potential corridors for future low-cost rail trips. To start, we'll save the endangered Barrie-Collingwood Railway and Orangeville-Brampton Railway.

Build more transit now

Ontario Liberals will:

- Expand public transit throughout the province
- Finish all transit plans already funded
- Better engage local communities on transit projects

Frequent, accessible transit can transform neighbourhoods and empower people to choose transit. We'll build dozens of new transit projects across the province – funding lines and stations that will improve people's lives and make it easier to use transit, including:

- **High Frequency Rail** to increase passenger rail service between Windsor, London, Brantford and Toronto, as well as between Toronto, Peterborough, Ottawa and Québec in collaboration with federal partners
- The **Waterloo Region ION LRT extension** from Kitchener to downtown Cambridge
- Two-way all-day **Milton GO service** seven days a week, and improved GO bus service in **Dufferin County**
- The **Hurontario LRT** extension further north along Main Street to Brampton GO
- The expansion of **Brampton bus rapid transit**, including along Queen Street and extending the Highway 7 Rapidway to the west
- **Mississauga's Hurontario LRT** loop around Square One that the Ford Conservatives cut
- The **Lakeshore East GO line extension** from Oshawa to Bowmanville
- **Stage 3 of Ottawa's regional transit plan**, applying the lessons learned from the first two stages
- The **Eglinton East LRT extension** to the University of Toronto Scarborough and Malvern

- The **Sheppard Subway extension** to connect to the new Scarborough Subway Extension
- The **Waterfront LRT** to extend service along the waterfront in Toronto
- Regular GO train service between **London, Kitchener and Toronto** to reduce travel times by at least 45 minutes
- **Bus rapid transit along Steeles Avenue** to serve neighbourhoods on the boundary of York Region and Toronto
- **Reduced transfer times at Union Station** for those travelling between Southwestern and Eastern Ontario

We'll build this new transit in a way that genuinely communicates, requiring Metrolinx to provide greater transparency, engagement and community benefits – like improvements to public spaces and relief for impacted small businesses.

As well, for too long changing governments in Ontario have ripped up or ignored existing transit plans, delaying progress and contributing to more gridlock and pollution and higher costs. We'll put an end to political games by maintaining all existing funded transit plans – getting shovels in the ground over the next four years on:

- **GO Expansion** and electrification, delivering two-way all-day service throughout the GTHA while adding 10 new stations
- Two-way, all-day GO rail service between **Toronto and Kitchener-Waterloo** and **Toronto and Niagara**
- **Bus Rapid Transit** in London
- **Hamilton LRT** from McMaster University through downtown Hamilton to Eastgate, as well as a new Confederation **GO rail station in East Hamilton**
- **Hurontario LRT** between Mississauga and Brampton and dedicated **bus rapid transit projects in Mississauga**
- **Durham-Scarborough bus rapid transit** through Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax, Pickering and Scarborough

- The **Ontario Line** from Exhibition Place through downtown Toronto and to the Ontario Science Centre
- The **Yonge North Subway Extension** extending into Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill
- The **Scarborough Subway Extension**, extending to Sheppard Avenue
- **Eglinton Crosstown LRT**, connecting west and east Toronto with 25 new stops and extending to Pearson Airport
- **Finch West LRT** connecting from Humber College to Finch West Station

Make it more affordable and easier to choose an electric car

Ontario Liberals will:

- Provide up to \$9,500 in rebates on electric vehicles and charging equipment
- Expand the availability of electric vehicle chargers
- Require all new passenger vehicles sold in Ontario be zero-emission by 2035

We'll help people replace polluting cars and trucks with electric or zero-emission ones by introducing an up to \$8,000 rebate, in addition to the existing \$5,000 federal rebate, on the purchase or lease of a non-luxury electric vehicle (up to \$65,000 retail price) and \$1,500 for charging equipment.

Despite the benefits that electric vehicles create for our air, climate and Ontario's economy, the Ford Conservatives cancelled funding for home charging stations, ripped out charging stations that had already been installed and removed charging station rough-ins from Ontario's building code – all of which we'll reverse. We'll rapidly expand the availability of vehicle charging stations in buildings, parking lots, city streets and all OnRoute and GO stations. Finally, we'll mandate that at least 60% of all new passenger vehicles sold in Ontario are zero-emission by 2030 and 100% by 2035.

Get more businesses to use zero-emission vehicles

Ontario Liberals will:

- Create zero-emission mandates for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, like shipping trucks
- Mandate electric vehicles and equipment across the public sector
- Electrify GO trains, public transit and school buses

It's not enough to help families drive cars that don't pollute. We'll work with industry and partners to create zero-emission vehicle mandates for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, like shipping trucks, and immediately require that the public sector only buy zero-emission vehicles and equipment. We'll also work with businesses to promote the use of sustainable alternative fuels in shipping, trucking and aviation, which can reduce carbon pollution by more than 90%. And we'll continue electrifying all GO trains, public transit and school buses.

Make Ontario the place electric batteries and vehicles are made and sold

Ontario Liberals will:

- Lead electric battery manufacturing in North America
- Launch a dedicated fund for the next generation of electric batteries
- Unlock Northern Ontario's metal and mineral reserves

As the global demand for electric vehicles and batteries continues to rise, the industry will be a major job creator – and we'll bring those jobs to Ontario. We'll lead on the creation of a North American Battery Alliance, leveraging our automotive supply expertise to ensure Ontario's battery and electric vehicle manufacturing sector is globally competitive.

We'll also launch a dedicated fund to fill gaps in the electric battery supply chain and commercialize next generation battery technology and recycling. Finally, we'll unlock Northern Ontario's reserves of sustainable battery metals and minerals to ensure that Northern Ontario communities, including Indigenous peoples, are the long-term benefactors of this industry while protecting the ecological and cultural values of the region.

Stop Highway 413, reassess the Bradford Bypass and responsibly maintain crucial highways

Ontario Liberals will:

- Scrap the ill-advised Highway 413 project, reinvesting the savings in school repairs
- Reassess the proposed Bradford Bypass' environmental impact
- Responsibly maintain existing highways to keep people safe and moving

We'll stop Highway 413, the Ford Conservatives' project that would only shave an average of 30 seconds off of commutes while paving over important wetlands and farmland. Instead, we'll focus on investing in transit and building more walkable, livable communities, including Brampton's urban boulevard alternative – investing the significant savings from this unnecessary highway into new and repaired schools, including upgraded ventilation systems. We'll also pause any further work on the proposed Bradford Bypass until a new environmental assessment is done – since the current assessment hasn't been updated since 1997. If this assessment fails to meet environmental and community standards, we'll stop the Bradford Bypass just like Highway 413.

Finally, we'll responsibly manage and maintain Ontario's important provincial highways, investing in strategic projects that keep people safe and moving, including:

- **Widening Highway 401** at targeted bottlenecks, including from Milton to Mississauga and between Pickering and Bowmanville
- **Finishing the Morriston Bypass** to enhance Highway 6 between Guelph and Hamilton
- **A new Highway 7** between Kitchener and Guelph
- **Twinning the Garden City Skyway** in Niagara
- **Four-laning Highway 3** from Windsor to Leamington
- **Adding additional High-Occupancy Toll Lanes** that are free to electric vehicles on more provincial highways.

Make it more affordable and safer to bike, walk and drive

Ontario Liberals will:

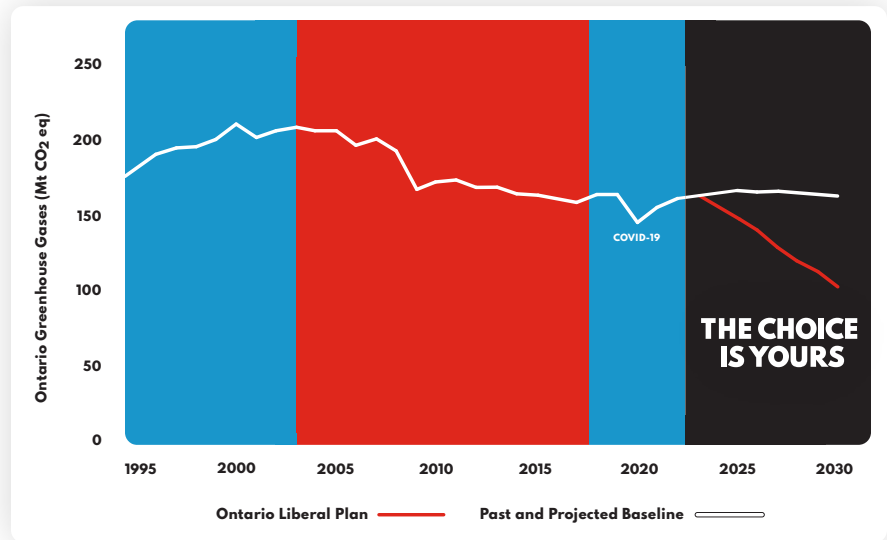
- Provide a \$500 rebate for e-bikes
- Expand cycling lanes and trails and make it easier to find and park bikes
- Work to eliminate road fatalities and serious road injuries
- Make it cheaper to install winter tires

We want people to get around in active ways that don't pollute. To complement our electric vehicle rebates, we will provide a 30% rebate for new electric bikes, mopeds or motorcycles up to \$500. We'll provide communities with \$100 million annually to build separated bike lanes and cycling trails, expand bike sharing and rental services and secure bike parking.

We'll also make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians to get around and set a goal to achieve zero fatalities or serious road injuries. We'll do this by supporting common-sense road designs that improve safety and reduce collisions, and we'll increase penalties for driving offences that result in fatalities or serious injuries. To encourage safer winter driving, we'll introduce a refundable tax credit of \$75 per winter tire and \$100 per studded tire in Northern Ontario.

Targets For Cutting Emissions

Our track records are clear: Conservatives increase carbon pollution and Liberals cut it. Our ambitious plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 2005 levels will see carbon pollution in Ontario drop significantly more than what would happen under the Ford Conservatives' approach. Below find the rate of those cuts leading up to 2030, and which initiatives will contribute.



Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Mt CO2 equivalent)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Current Baseline <small>(Environment and Climate Change Canada)</small>	161.4	163.0	164.6	166.2	165.4	164.6	163.8	162.9	162.0
Federal Carbon Price and Initiatives	-2.5	-4.5	-7.0	-9.5	-14.2	-21.3	-25.4	-29.5	-34.9
Cutting Methane and Landfills	-	-0.2	-1.3	-2.5	-3.7	-5.3	-5.7	-6.1	-6.5
Nature-Based Solutions	-	-	-	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-2.5
Electric Vehicles	-	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9
Public Transit	-	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Energy-Efficient Buildings	-	-	-	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0
Industrial Carbon Price and Offsets	1.2	1.4	0.7	0.0	-0.8	-1.6	-2.4	-3.2	-4.0
Green Jobs Fund	-	-	-	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.5	-3.0	-3.5
Clean Energy Supply	0.8	0.0	0.0	-0.6	-1.2	-1.8	-2.4	-3.1	-5.0
Progress to 2030 Target (Mt) <small>(relative to 2019)</small>	-0.5	-4.0	-8.5	-15.3	-24.3	-35.9	-43.8	-51.3	-60.7
Progress to 2030 Target <small>(% off 2005 level of 206 Mt)</small>	-21%	-23%	-24%	-27%	-32%	-38%	-42%	-46%	-50%

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

A PLACE TO GROW TOGETHER

As Ontarians, we believe in universal ideals. That if you work hard, you can provide for yourself and your loved ones. That everyone is just one great opportunity away from their dreams. That being yourself is more than enough and that we're stronger together than apart.

But too often these ideals fall short. Fear and hate lead people down the wrong paths – and all are worse for it. Women have to drop out of the workforce because of limited child care. People with disabilities face too many barriers to full inclusion. That's not the Ontario we want to live in, and it's not true to who we are.

The contributions of diverse communities – people of different races, religions, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities – have built the Ontario we call home. Rural, Northern and Franco-Ontarians and Indigenous peoples bring vibrant, dynamic life to every corner of this province. Each of these communities deserves protection, support and hope that tomorrow will be better.

Our Ontario Liberal plan creates dignity and opportunity for all, is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, creates more fairness and safety for all Ontarians regardless of where they live in the province.





DIGNITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

An Ontario that stands by all its people

- Raise social assistance rates
- Support children with autism and their families
- Help people with disabilities live independently within communities
- Make sure women are treated fairly in the workforce
- Support Franco-Ontarians
- Act on the priorities of 2SLGBTQ+ Ontarians
- Support newcomers and diverse communities



COMMITTED TO RECONCILIATION

Pledging partnership with Indigenous communities

- Enhance education about and for Indigenous communities
- Promote Indigenous health and wellbeing
- Ensure Indigenous peoples have equal opportunities



A UNITED ONTARIO

Supporting rural and Northern communities

- Promote the wellbeing and success of rural and Northern communities
- Expand internet access by 2025
- Target big food retailers and support farmers
- Build up rural and Northern Ontario
- Make it easier to move throughout Northern Ontario



AN ONTARIO THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

Better, fairer systems that serve everyone

- Create a safer Ontario for everyone
- Improve legal aid, child welfare and other justice services
- Strengthen democracy and respect local governments
- Deliver a focused, efficient and effective government

DIGNITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

An Ontario that stands by all its people

Raise social assistance rates

Ontario Liberals will:

- Reverse Conservatives' cuts to social assistance
- Increase ODSP rates by 20%
- Bring back the basic income pilot
- Make sure social assistance works for more people

We'll introduce legislation to bring back a demonstration of basic income that the Ford Conservatives cancelled to evaluate the life-changing impacts of giving people consistent, reliable financial support. And as a first step, we'll reverse the Ford Conservatives' cuts and increase Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) rates by 10%, followed by another 10% for ODSP recipients in 2023. We'll also make sure people receiving social assistance can keep more of their earnings by increasing the amount of income earned without impacting assistance from \$2,400 to \$6,000 per year and calculating earnings on an annual basis. And we'll replace the current complex rate structure with an inflation-protected flat rate that treats everyone equally regardless of where or how they live, and redefine "spouse" to give new couples receiving social assistance more support.

Support children with autism and their families

Ontario Liberals will:

- Implement a needs-based Ontario Autism Program for every child
- Hire a new special education worker for every school
- Conduct a comprehensive reform of special education and better transition people into adult services

We know that autism services have been reformed many times over the last decade, disrupting service and progress for families. The mistakes of the past will not be repeated. To make sure, we'll establish an independent review of autism services to document and learn from past failures, funded from outside the Ontario Autism Program budget.

We'll work as quickly as possible with people with autism, families and clinicians to implement a needs-based Ontario Autism Program for every child that does not discriminate based on age. This will include Applied Behavioural Analysis, occupational therapy, mental health and speech and language pathology. We'll also create new autism therapy capacity across the province and regulate the sector to ensure quality.

So families don't have to pay out of pocket for autism services, we'll implement a direct billing option for therapy, make Special Services at Home funding more flexible and hire at least one new special education professional per school to work with students and help close learning gaps. Finally, we'll undertake a comprehensive reform of special education and the needs of students with disabilities – including the Individual Education Plan and autism services in schools – and fix the cliff that occurs when a child with a disability ages into adult services by better aligning both systems.

Help people with disabilities live independently within communities

Ontario Liberals will:

- Build at least 2,500 more supportive homes for people with developmental disabilities
- Give at least \$6,000 to adults with a developmental disability to participate in their community
- Give more money to and people who provide services to people with disabilities
- Make it easier for people with disabilities to navigate the health system and get assistive devices
- Strengthen and better enforce rules that make it easier for people with disabilities to move through and work in communities

To help more people with developmental disabilities find homes they love, we'll build at least 2,500 more supportive homes and increase funding support for these homes. We'll provide all adults eligible for the Passport program at least \$6,000 to participate in their communities. We'll enhance funding and address price-gouging through the Assistive Devices Program for things like wheelchairs, hearing aids and lifts – and remove the need for medical certificates for basic mobility aids.

We'll make the pandemic wage enhancements in place for staff who support people with developmental disabilities permanent, and we'll rescind any ableist triage protocols to make it easier and safer for people with disabilities to navigate the health system.

We'll strengthen existing Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards, enact new standards for education and health care and address accessibility barriers in the way we construct homes and buildings. We'll also increase the frequency of on-site AODA inspections and regularly report on compliance – as well as advancing disability accessibility training in

relevant professions, like architecture and design. Finally, we'll appoint a stand-alone Minister for disability issues and include accessibility commitments in government mandate letters.

Make sure women are treated fairly in the workforce

Ontario Liberals will:

- Tackle the gender pay gap by requiring pay transparency
- Make sure women receive the same opportunities in the workplace
- Lower the cost of child care and enable more fathers to take parental leave
- Require companies to disclose how many women and people from equity-deserving groups they have on boards and in senior management

Women represent half of Ontario and deserve to have equal rights in the workforce. We'll implement the Pay Transparency Act that the Ford Conservatives put on indefinite hold – requiring job postings to include compensation ranges, prohibiting employers from asking about compensation history and requiring larger employers to publish pay gaps by gender. We'll also repeal the sections of Bill 106 that gutted the Pay Equity Act and reintroduce the repealed Employment Equity Act which ensures everyone receives equal job opportunities and are treated fairly by their employers, including opportunities for promotions and professional development.

We'll also lower the cost of child care to \$10 a day and make it easier for more fathers to take extended parental leave. We'll require publicly listed companies to disclose the representation of women and people from equity-deserving groups, such as Indigenous peoples and people of colour, on their boards and senior management teams, and set requirements for companies bidding on government contracts to achieve equitable representation.

Help women live safer, healthier lives

Ontario Liberals will:

- Provide free menstrual products in schools, libraries and other spaces
- Fund women's health needs such as postpartum mental health, abortion and reproductive services – including covering one cycle of egg freezing
- Fund women's organizations, including those focused on gender-based violence
- Make it easier to learn about someone's history of abusive behaviour or domestic violence
- Create 3,800 supportive homes for women fleeing domestic abuse

We'll provide free menstrual products at all schools, libraries, community centres, transit stations and health services. We'll also create an Ontario Women's Health Strategy to make the health system responsive to women's health needs, including maintaining publicly funded abortion services and reproductive health programs currently available and expanding access to fertility treatments, early pregnancy loss and perinatal mental health services. This includes expanding the Ontario Fertility Program to cover one cycle of egg freezing.

We'll also increase funding for equity-deserving organizations including those tackling gender-based violence, mandate all hospitals have sexual assault evidence kits available and create clear rules around disclosure and the 'right to know' of an intimate partners' history of abusive behaviour or domestic violence. Finally, we'll build 3,800 more supportive homes for women fleeing domestic abuse through our housing plan.

Support Franco-Ontarians

Ontario Liberals will:

- Make sure every Ontarian has access to services in French
- Increase the number of French-speaking health care workers
- Invest in affordable and supportive homes for Francophones
- Invest in French-language artistic, cultural and community opportunities
- Reinstate the French Language Services Commissioner

Currently, 20% of Francophones live in areas non-designated for French-language services. To ensure Francophones can access quality services in French no matter where they live, we'll invest in better digital and remote solutions when bilingual staff are not available. In health care, we'll create a more bilingual workforce and work with federal partners to increase the number of French-speaking international students who study in Ontario's health care programs. We'll also consult with the Francophone community to develop a French-language health strategy focused on finding where the service gaps are. And we'll identify other ways to enhance access to French language health services, including adding preferred language to Ontario health cards.

As part of our housing plan, we'll invest in affordable and supportive housing for the Francophone community – using Toronto's Centres d'Accueil Héritage as an example of integrating French-language community care and housing. We'll also invest in a new building for Mouvement d'implication francophone d'Orléans to offer French-language services in the artistic, cultural and community fields and increase Programme d'appui à la francophonie ontarienne funding to \$3 million – prioritizing projects submitted by and for Francophones. Finally, we'll reinstate the independent French Language Services Commissioner.

Protect and enhance French-language learning

Ontario Liberals will:

- Improve access to French immersion
- Build, repair and fund French-language schools
- Recruit, train and retain more French-language teachers
- Fund and make it easier to attend French-language post-secondary
- Increase the number of French-speaking early childhood educators

With more Ontarians choosing a French-Immersion program for their children, the current system can limit access and create inequities. We'll consult on how best to increase equitable access to French-Immersion programs and invest in new and repaired schools to meet demand for French language education. We'll also recruit, train and retain more French-language teachers, including simplifying the hiring process for qualified newcomers. For preschool-aged kids, we'll significantly increase the number of French-language early childhood educators for Ontario's child care and early years centres.

We'll also invest in the ongoing sustainability of Laurentian University and establish Université de Sudbury as an independent francophone university with an arrangement to make it easy for students to transfer credits between the two. And we'll strengthen the coordination of French-language universities across the province, work to reduce credit transfer barriers and invest in cost-effective post-secondary learning models, such as La Cité's MobiliCité.

Act on 2SLGBTQ+ Ontarians' priorities

Ontario Liberals will:

- Provide culturally competent and gender affirming health, mental health and long-term care
- Fully cover medications that prevent and treat HIV
- Reduce wait times and barriers to gender-affirming surgeries
- Build 2SLGBTQ+ inclusive supportive housing
- Make sure 2SLGBTQ+ young people are being supported in schools
- Provide \$20 million to 2SLGBTQ+ community centres, organizations and Prides

Everyone in Ontario deserves to love and live as their authentic selves. We'll improve training and provide accessible, competent and gender affirming care for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, trans and queer people in health care, mental health and seniors care – and we'll expand access to safe and affirming long-term care homes.

We'll provide full coverage for medications required to prevent and treat HIV, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and antiretroviral therapy – as well as expand access and reduce wait times and barriers to gender-affirming surgeries.

As part of our housing plan, we'll build 2,000 inclusive supportive homes for 2SLGBTQ+ youth that meet unique needs and we'll ensure that 2SLGBTQ+ young people feel welcome and supported in schools – including in an affirming, updated curriculum. Finally, we'll provide \$20 million toward an 2SLGBTQ+ Action Plan with funding for community centres, health organizations, Prides and others groups that serve the community.

Support newcomers and diverse communities

Ontario Liberals will:

- Help newcomers and refugees come to and settle in Ontario
- Fund community grants for newcomers and diverse communities
- Fund local and diverse storytelling
- Create standards of care for diverse Ontarians and ensure culturally competent care is available

We'll increase funding for newcomer settlement services as well as sponsorship programs for all those fleeing war and conflict – like the war in Ukraine – with a focus on more support for young newcomers, a 24-hour support line and school translation services and language classes.

We'll also increase and make permanent the Multicultural Community Capacity Grant program to support projects by and for newcomers and diverse communities – and we'll reinstate the Multicultural Journalism Fund to support local and diverse storytelling.

To make sure everyone is getting the same quality of care, we'll develop and mandate health equity standards to ensure diverse communities are being treated fairly in health care – including by having hospitals and long-term care homes collect and report on race-based data and incidents of racism. We'll also find ways to ensure culturally competent treatments and services are more available.

Combat racism and protect victims of hate or intolerance

Ontario Liberals will:

- Reverse funding cuts to anti-racism programs
- Better investigate hate crimes and human rights complaints
- Protect religious institutions from violence and intimidation
- Pass the Our London Family Act to create new tools and strategies to combat racism
- Appoint a stand-alone Minister responsible for anti-racism

Hate and intolerance have no place in Ontario. We'll reverse the Ford Conservatives' cuts to anti-racism programs and strengthen ways to respond to complaints about racism in public school, health and child welfare systems, led by a stand-alone Minister.

To address anti-Black racism specifically, we'll refresh Ontario's 2017 Anti-Black Racism Strategy. In education, we'll make sure Black history, literature and the contributions of Black Canadians are featured in the year-long curriculum and end streaming in schools which can segregate classrooms. We'll also provide \$5 million to Black historical sites and community centres and \$10 million in grants to help support Black entrepreneurs and small businesses.

The number of hate crimes rose during the pandemic – especially toward Asian, Black, Jewish and Muslim Ontarians – so we'll improve the investigation of hate crimes with enhanced Crown Attorney units dedicated to advising police and prosecuting hate crimes.

We'll also extend the limitation period for putting forward human rights complaints from one to five years. We'll make it an offense punishable by major fines for engaging in acts of criminal

intimidation within 50 metres of churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, gurudwaras and other faith institutions and invest in their safety and security. We'll provide new supports for students and all Ontarians to learn about the painful truth of the Holocaust and prevent the harmful spread of its denial. Finally, we'll pass the Our London Family Act to address Islamophobia and create new tools and strategies to combat all forms of racism.

COMMITTED TO RECONCILIATION

Pledging partnership with Indigenous communities

Enhance education about and for Indigenous communities

Ontario Liberals will:

- Mandate learning about the painful history of Canada's residential schools and the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples
- Support the teaching of First Nations languages and culture
- Investigate and commemorate former residential school sites
- Invest in First Nations Public Libraries
- Make the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a statutory holiday

We are committed to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action by working with and learning from Indigenous peoples and First Nations, guided by the principles of self-determination, reciprocity, and mutual recognition of nationhood. This includes increasing support for the option to learn First Nations languages, allowing Indigenous elders to teach Indigenous language classes and mandating the inclusion of the painful history of Canada's residential schools across the K-12 curriculum while also learning about and celebrating the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples to Ontario and Canada.

We'll also partner to expand and strengthen Ontario's Indigenous Institutes to increase opportunities for diplomas, certificates and degrees in culturally enriched settings with permanent funding and invest \$2 million in First Nations Public Libraries since only 30% of First Nations reserves have libraries.

Finally, we'll continue to support the investigation and commemoration of former residential school sites across Ontario and make September 30th – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – a statutory holiday so there's an annual occasion for everyone to learn and reflect.

Promote Indigenous health and wellbeing

Ontario Liberals will:

- Get everyone access to safe, clean drinking water – ending the need for boil water advisories
- Restore rivers, wetlands and watersheds that Indigenous communities rely upon
- Streamline how land is added to First Nations reserves
- Invest in Indigenous-led mental health supports and long-term care

We'll work closely with Indigenous, federal and municipal partners to end all boil water advisories in all First Nations and Northern communities in Ontario, making necessary investments in water infrastructure, operations and maintenance where needed. We'll protect and restore Ontario's rivers, wetlands and watersheds, including Moose Cree First Nation and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. We'll also streamline the process with the federal government through which land is added to First Nations reserves.

As part of our mental health plan, we'll invest in Indigenous-led culturally competent and trauma-informed mental health supports for Indigenous peoples, including for residential school survivors and their families.

Finally, we'll support the reform of child welfare for First Nations, and as part of our plan to fundamentally change the way we care for seniors, we will support the development of more Indigenous long-term care homes.

Ensure Indigenous peoples have equal opportunities

Ontario Liberals will:

- Fund Indigenous child care
- Invest \$25 million in Indigenous small businesses
- Support Indigenous infrastructure and energy projects
- Build 22,000 new homes for off-reserve Indigenous families
- Strengthen revenue sharing agreements
- Bring back a minister focused on Indigenous reconciliation

Empowering Indigenous talent leads to success for a community and growth for Ontario's economy. We'll help more Indigenous parents participate in the workforce by ensuring Indigenous child care needs are met, and we'll provide \$25 million to increase access to credit and training for Indigenous entrepreneurs and small business owners.

We'll help complete the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project, one of the largest First Nations-led infrastructure projects in Canadian history, and support Indigenous-supported projects that drive electrification in Northern Ontario. We'll work collaboratively with Indigenous housing providers and federal partners to develop a distinct housing strategy for off-reserve Indigenous peoples – including creating 22,000 new homes for Indigenous families while scrapping Ministerial Zoning Orders and requiring transparent consultations with affected Indigenous communities.

We'll bring back a stand-alone minister focused on Indigenous reconciliation and honour the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of

Indigenous Peoples, the duty to consult, data sovereignty and Jordan's Principle – as well as strengthen revenue sharing agreements, such as with mining and forestry taxes.

A UNITED ONTARIO

Supporting rural and Northern communities

Promote the wellbeing and success of rural and Northern communities

Ontario Liberals will:

- Ensure access to a family doctor or nurse practitioner in remote communities
- Get more health services in rural and Northern Ontario
- Cover tuition costs for medical and nursing students working in a rural or remote community
- Fund and equip rural and Northern schools

As part of ensuring access to a family doctor or nurse practitioner within 24 hours regardless of where you live in Ontario, we'll expand the number of Community Health Centres and Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics so all communities have access to primary care. We'll also cover tuition costs for any medical and nursing students in Ontario who commits to working long-term in a rural or remote community – and we'll increase the admission cap on the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, providing more tuition subsidies for students committed to staying in the North long-term. We'll also work to bring a midwifery program back to the North. When taken together, these measures will reduce wait times for and quality of care in the North.

We'll annually review the Northern Health Travel Grant to ensure it keeps up with rising costs – and we'll lift the arbitrary cap on new Consumption and Treatment Services sites, which includes safe injection programs, expediting applications in rural and Northern Ontario.

In education, we'll review the school funding formula from top-to-bottom to ensure it meets the needs of rural and Northern students, parents and educators. We'll invest in the sustainability of Northern post-secondary institutions including Laurentian University, the Université de Sudbury and Indigenous Institutes, as well as equip these institutions with digital teaching tools so that students needing to complete assessments can do so without travelling long distances. Finally, we'll expand affordable, high-speed broadband internet to every Ontario household and business by 2025 – including remote communities and First Nations reserves – and we'll help Northern and rural entrepreneurs to digitize, getting more small and medium businesses online.

Expand internet access by 2025

Ontario Liberals will:

- Get affordable, high-speed internet to everyone by 2025
- Generate more competition for internet providers

Internet has become an essential good for people, especially during two years of physical distancing. We need to improve access to internet while driving down costs through greater competition – leveraging existing public fibre assets to expand small, municipal or community-owned networks. Expanding these and other networks, along with investing in low Earth orbit satellites, will get affordable, high-speed internet to every Ontario household and business by 2025, including First Nations reserves.

To help close the digital divide across Ontario, we'll require the Ontario government and the broader public sector to donate any surplus devices to communities and families in need. Finally, we'll invest in digitizing Ontario's public libraries – giving all Ontarians access to free e-learning, online resources and more e-books.

Target big food retailers and support farmers

Ontario Liberals will:

- Require fair and open negotiations between farmers and grocers
- Preserve farmland and promote sustainable farming
- Improve food processing capacity
- Increase carbon tax rebates to farmers and involve them in climate action to protect lands

Ontario is blessed with an abundant food supply, but a few big companies dominate food retailing and processing. They control prices, levy new fees on suppliers and make significant profits. We're ready to take on these mega-companies and their abusive behaviour toward farmers by legislating fair and open negotiations between retailers and suppliers – a move that will drive down food prices in the long-term. We'll also make Ontario's food supply chain more resilient by preserving farmland and promoting sustainable farming techniques, as well as investing in additional regional processing capacity and reviewing potential restrictions on foreign ownership of farmland.

We'll develop a made-for-rural climate action plan that recognizes the unique challenges of reducing greenhouse gases in remote settings and the agriculture sector – which will include working with federal partners to strengthen carbon tax rebates to farmers. We'll also bring more lands under the Greenbelt's protection in close collaboration with local and Indigenous communities and farmers and strengthen the powers of Ontario's Conservation Authorities to provide them with the tools and resources they need to prevent flooding and protect our natural resources.

Build up rural and Northern Ontario

Ontario Liberals will:

- Build or repair rural and Northern community infrastructure, like libraries and arenas
- Reverse the Ford Conservatives' cuts to Northern projects
- Develop the Ring of Fire
- Support a growing economy in Northern Ontario

We'll build or repair crucial community rural infrastructure like libraries, arenas and other community spaces through a new \$50 million Rural Development Fund – using it to also encourage the co-location of schools and community services. We'll update the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario and invest in the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) by reversing the Ford Conservatives' cuts and increasing annual funding to \$150 million. We'll introduce representation thresholds for the NOHFC Board of Directors to ensure regional and diverse perspectives, providing opportunities to elect members and take out political influence by removing the Minister as a voting member.

We'll also ensure the Ring of Fire is developed in a sustainable, inclusive and environmentally-conscious way – fully funding road access, facilitating the connection of First Nations communities to the provincial power grid and entering into revenue sharing agreements with Indigenous communities. We'll also support and empower Northern municipalities by rebating 5% of the provincial mining tax.

Finally, we'll commit to moving multiple government offices to Northern Ontario, extend the waiver of crown resource fees for resource-based tourism businesses through 2022 and work with federal partners to ensure settlement of more skilled newcomers in Northern Ontario.

Make it easier to move throughout Northern Ontario

Ontario Liberals will:

- Improve transportation options by making the Community Transportation Grants permanent for small and rural communities – working to close gaps in the network and improve connectivity
- Work with northern municipalities and Ontario Northland to improve bus connections between northern communities
- Restore service on the Ontario Northlander from Toronto to North Bay within two years and plan for passenger rail further north, including extending the Polar Bear Express southward to Timmins
- Implement a proven 2+1 highway model to support safe passing on major Northern Ontario highways
- Complete the four-laning of Highway 69 and Highway 11/17 between Thunder Bay and Nipigon by 2025
- Advance the widening of Highway 17 from Kenora to Manitoba
- Move forward with the Cochrane by-pass from Highway 11 to Highway 652
- Ensure the highest level of winter maintenance standards to protect travellers on Northern highways by designating Highways 11 and 17 as class 1 highways so they're maintained and plowed more often



WE'LL BUILD OR REPAIR CRUCIAL COMMUNITY RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE LIBRARIES, ARENAS AND OTHER COMMUNITY SPACES THROUGH A NEW \$50 MILLION RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.

AN ONTARIO THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

Better, fairer systems that serve everyone

Create a safer Ontario for everyone

Ontario Liberals will:

- Ban handguns from Ontario
- Divert people with addictions, disabilities and mental health conditions away from the justice system and to appropriate supports
- Ensure police training includes de-escalation, anti-racism, cultural sensitivity and mental health
- Hire more diverse and underrepresented police officers
- Fund body camera programs for police

Ontarians need to feel safe in their communities – and handguns are disproportionately killing people more than any other type of firearm. We'll work with the federal government to ban the sale, possession, transport and storage of handguns in Ontario while we advocate for a national ban, and work to take these dangerous guns off our streets through a buy-back program. Existing professional exemptions to carry registered firearms, such as for police, military and trappers, will remain in place. The Ontario Liberal plan will also treat gun violence as a public health issue and fund trauma counselling for survivors and others affected by gun violence.

In an emergency or conflict, police are often the first call – even though the situation doesn't always call for police intervention. We'll ensure more mental health workers are ready to respond to low-risk emergency calls to identify and divert people with addictions and disabilities from the justice system, directing them to more appropriate services. We'll do this by investing in mental health first responders

and the OPP Crisis Call Diversion Program, as well as provide greater access to social workers for those leaving correctional facilities.

Police services must also be responsive to the changing needs of the communities they serve and ensure everyone feels safe. We'll require that all police training contains appropriate content regarding de-escalation, anti-racism, cultural sensitivity and engaging with individuals experiencing mental health conditions – and provide funding to police forces to deploy body cameras. To make sure police look like the communities they serve, we'll support training and hiring more diverse police officers, such as expanding the Youth in Policing Initiative – and we'll require police services to disclose annual statistics regarding the diversity of their officers, leadership and police service boards.

Improve legal aid, child welfare and other justice services

Ontario Liberals will:

- Reverse cuts to legal aid that deny marginalized Ontarians of representation and justice
- Make the child welfare system more responsive and sensitive
- Fight human trafficking

We'll reverse the Ford Conservatives' devastating cuts to legal aid and Ontario's tribunal system that have resulted in marginalized Ontarians being denied legal representation and justice – working to innovate the system so it is less costly, more accessible and more efficient. We'll also make the child welfare system more responsive, flexible and sensitive to the needs of diverse communities, including more placement options and programs to support completing education. We'll also increase support to prevent human trafficking through training in schools, support for trafficking survivors and bringing traffickers to justice.

Strengthen democracy and respect local governments

Ontario Liberals will:

- Use ranked ballots for the next provincial election and allow municipalities to use it
- Explore other potential changes to elections – like lowering the voting age or voting on weekends
- Respect and better fund local governments

When our elections become divisive, people get frustrated and give up on voting. To address this trend, we'll introduce ranked ballots for the next provincial election followed by an independent review – meaning parties and leaders compete for voters' second choices in addition to their first choices. Ranked ballots will reward parties that find common ground and that speak to voters' hopes, not their fears.

We'll broaden Elections Ontario's mandate to help municipalities implement ranked ballots if they choose. We'll also appoint a Citizens' Assembly to review other potential changes to our elections, such as the voting age, voting on the weekend or expanded advanced voting.

Finally, we'll respect and empower the autonomy of municipalities – refusing to use the notwithstanding clause to trample over local decision making like the Ford Conservatives did. Since municipal budgets were hit hard during the pandemic, we'll review municipal fiscal sustainability and the potential to upload responsibility of more critical infrastructure like bridges and roads to the province.

Deliver a focused, efficient and effective government

Ontario Liberals will:

- Find savings through more effective public procurement
- Lead a more open, transparent and digital government

Ontarians expect their government to be efficient and effective. Every dollar spent by the government on people's behalf must be leveraged to the greatest positive impact.

We'll ensure any money spent by the provincial government and the broader public sector meets a value for money test by improving public procurement through more coordinated, transparent, fair and easy-to-navigate systems. This will strengthen Ontario's purchasing power and make it easier for Ontario's small and medium-sized businesses to submit bids – including unsolicited ones – to win public contracts on a level playing field. Savings from this focus on an efficient and effective government will be reinvested in the front-line services that people value and rely on.

To be a government with the highest order of integrity, transparency and accountability, we'll publish Cabinet mandate letters and engage Ontarians in open public consultations prior to decision-making – including through more accessible online options and in all regions and communities. We'll also simplify and digitize more government services and make more data and information open by default.



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