

MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN, 2007
HIGHLIGHTS



Moving Forward Together

Highlights

The Ontario Liberals have been working hard for the last four years to strengthen Ontario by strengthening the health, education and economy of its people. Working together, Ontarians have built stronger schools, a better health care system and have added more than 340,000 jobs to our economy.

We've made a lot of progress — but there is more to do.

The Ontario Liberals' platform, *Moving Forward Together*, outlines the next steps in the government's plan to make Ontario the place to be for years to come. The platform is divided into five key areas:

- A Smarter Ontario
- A Stronger Ontario
- A Healthier Ontario
- A Greener Ontario
- A Better Ontario for Families



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

A SMARTER ONTARIO: EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

In the next four years, our goal is to reach every child. We want all our students to do better in school. We will provide them with the individual attention they need in a quality setting, measure their progress to ensure we're getting results, and ensure we take positive action if a student, or school, is struggling.

Building on what we have accomplished in four short years, we can make our publicly funded education system one of the very best in the world.

Highlights of a Smarter Ontario

We will:

- ✓ Continue to improve the funding formula, investing an additional \$3.1 billion annually by 2011 and requiring that the formula be reviewed by 2010.
- ✓ Double the funding for our community use of schools program, so that space for after-school activities is affordable for all Ontario families and free in communities that need it most.
- ✓ Make homework help available online and after school
- ✓ Create a \$150 million Every Student Fund for students in grades 4–8 as our next step toward closing the gap in supports for elementary students.
- ✓ Make schools healthier: ban trans fats from all school cafeterias, prescribe a healthier menu that conforms to the new Canada Food Guide and create an Ontario Fitness Challenge program to fight childhood obesity.
- ✓ Provide a new textbook and technology grant of \$300 for university and college students to help them get started each year at school.
- ✓ Introduce a special distance grant for students from remote areas.
- ✓ Provide parents with a grant at the beginning of the school year instead of making them wait for the post-secondary education tax credit payable at the end of the year.
- ✓ Work with the federal government to give students twice the amount of time before they must start repaying their student loans, so they have a chance to get established in their new careers.
- ✓ Increase new apprenticeships by a full 25%.



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A STRONGER ONTARIO: CREATING JOBS IN TODAY'S ECONOMY

Over the next four years, we will continue to grow our economy and keep Ontario moving forward. Ontario Liberals know that government can be a positive force in securing new jobs for Ontarians. We also know that for the province to be at its best, we need every Ontarian to be at their best.

Highlights of a Stronger Ontario

We will:

- ✓ Expand our Next Generation Jobs Fund to \$1.15 billion to support job creation in areas of great potential for Ontario.
- ✓ Establish Investment Ontario Inc., an independent investment attraction agency modeled on successful efforts in places like Ireland.
- ✓ Add a new Second Career strategy to our Rapid Re-Employment and Training Service, to help Ontarians who have suffered job loss build new skills and find new employment.
- ✓ Help rural communities prosper by increasing the rural economic development fund by 50%.
- ✓ Increase funding for the Northern Heritage Fund to \$100 million per year; to reflect the key role northern communities play in creating Ontario's prosperity.
- ✓ Help newcomers upgrade their skills by expanding the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to include books, language courses and bridging programs
- ✓ Increase English as a second language funding for schools
- ✓ Build a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy around the Ontario Child Benefit. We will work with partners to develop indicators and targets to measure and address child poverty. Our first step will be to support dental services for low-income Ontario families.
- ✓ Building on our first term successes in education and Best Start, we will appoint an Early Learning Advisor to advise the Premier on developing and funding a full-day pre-school program.
- ✓ Create a long-term strategy for affordable housing.
- ✓ Continue to balance the budget and pay down the provincial debt.
- ✓ Help Ontario businesses stay competitive by eliminating the capital tax and reducing provincial property taxes on business.



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A HEALTHIER ONTARIO: STRENGTHENING MEDICARE FOR THE FUTURE

We will build on the success of the last four years by continuing to invest in universal, public health care for all Ontarians. We will continue to make the system more patient-friendly, and will focus energy on the prevention of sickness and the promotion of wellness.

Highlights of a Healthier Ontario

We will:

- ✓ Expand our progress on wait times to more services: emergency room visits, children's surgery and general surgery.
- ✓ Deliver access to a family doctor to 500,000 more Ontarians.
- ✓ Deliver 50 more Family Health Teams over the next four years, targeting areas like rural and northern Ontario, where doctors are harder to find.
- ✓ Hire 9,000 more nurses, meet our goal to have 70% of nurses working full time, guarantee jobs for new nursing grads, invest in healthy work environments for nurses and establish 25 more nurse-led clinics.
- ✓ Support Ontario seniors who want to stay in their own homes with an easy-to-access basket of services, improve the level of care in long-term care homes with 2,000 new nurses, build 35,000 long-term care beds over 10 years and provide financial support for those caring for elderly family members.
- ✓ Help the growing number of Ontarians living with diabetes through a mix of prevention, technology, personal planning and access to specialized resources and health professionals.
- ✓ We will focus on improving breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening rates and cover the cost of both the PSA test to detect prostate cancer and the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer.
- ✓ Provide tax incentives to encourage Ontarians to stay active in their daily lives, including a break on provincial sales tax on bicycles and bike helmets and tax credits for families with children enrolled in organized physical activities.



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A GREENER ONTARIO: LEADING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Ontario Liberals know that the environment is an issue that cuts across all areas of public policy. It's an economic opportunity we will seize with our plan to attract new jobs by developing and manufacturing cleaner technology. It's a health issue we will address by cleaning up the pollution that makes us sick. And it's a quality of life issue we will address by providing more greenspace for our families to enjoy, together.

Highlights of a Greener Ontario

We will:

- ✓ Make our energy greener and cleaner, with the province's first long-term energy plan in a generation. Our plan will replace coal by doubling renewables and doubling conservation.
- ✓ Build more rapid transit, with Move Ontario 2020, the largest transit expansion in Canadian history.
- ✓ Reduce emissions that cause climate change by 6% below 1990 levels by 2014, 15% below by 2020 and 80% by 2050.
- ✓ Provide rebates and tax incentives for Ontarians to buy energy efficient appliances and make energy saving investments in their home.
- ✓ Eliminate inefficient, old light bulbs
- ✓ Provide financial assistance to communities to help save energy and reduce emissions that cause climate change.
- ✓ Create a tough new toxic reduction law that requires companies that emit toxic pollution to reduce their emissions over time
- ✓ Work with Cancer Care Ontario and the Ontario Medical Association to identify, target and reduce the number of cancer-causing agents released into our environment.
- ✓ Ban the cosmetic use of pesticides across the province.
- ✓ Implement our nation-leading Endangered Species Act, beginning with a plan to protect large-scale areas for caribou habitat in the Boreal Forest.
- ✓ Consider applications by regional and county governments to grow the Greenbelt.
- ✓ Create stronger protections for threatened lakes like Lake Simcoe and provide funding to clean up hot spots in the Great Lakes, like Randle Reef in Hamilton.



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A BETTER ONTARIO FOR FAMILIES: IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

The values that inform the McGuinty Liberal approach to government are the values of Ontario families. Those values will continue to inform our efforts over the next four years. Everything in our platform, *Moving Forward Together*, is designed to give life to those values

Highlights of a Better Ontario for Families

We will:

- ✓ Help families with the cost of taking care of an aging parent or relative at home.
- ✓ Expand the new home tax credit to all first-time homebuyers, to help young Ontarians who are starting out.
- ✓ Create a new homeowners grant for seniors who have trouble paying their property taxes, to help them stay at home.
- ✓ Obtain Ontario's fair share of new federal funding for new police. We will use that money to hire at least 1,000 additional officers, half of them municipal officers and half frontline OPP officers.
- ✓ Continue to press the federal government to ban handguns.
- ✓ Keep dangerous offenders off our streets. Increase the number of applications for dangerous offender status, keep closer watch on them when they are released and work with the federal government to make it more difficult for them to get out of prison in the first place.
- ✓ Make sure families can depend on modern infrastructure, by investing at least \$60 billion over the next 10 years in critical infrastructure such as public transit, roads and bridges, water systems, waste solutions, and cultural and community recreational facilities.
- ✓ Preserve the unique character of small-town Ontario by redeveloping historic downtowns through a new partnership.
- ✓ In the first year of our next mandate, we will create a new long weekend in February.
- ✓ Help people have families by making fertility monitoring available earlier in life, so people know whether or not they are likely to have a problem having children and make treatment and adoption more accessible and affordable for people.
- ✓ Ensure that military families qualify for all provincial services immediately upon taking residence in Ontario by exempting them from the 90-day waiting period faced by most newcomers to the province.



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