



THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN, 2007

MOVING FORWARD  
TOGETHER

*Ontario's  
NAI Plan*

THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN, 2007

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### A Message from Dalton McGuinty

Ontario is moving forward. Our economy is stronger, with more than 340,000 more jobs than just four years ago. Our schools are better: class sizes are smaller in the crucial early grades, test scores in reading, writing and math are up, and graduation rates are improving. Gone are the cuts and chaos that hurt our kids just four years ago. Our health care is finally back on track and we're starting to see real improvements: hiring 8,000 new nurses, half a million more Ontarians with a family doctor, 100 new or expanded hospitals, and speedier access to key procedures such as heart surgery, MRIs and cancer treatment. We've come a long way, together, from the days when hospitals were being closed and nurses were being fired. We're doing more to make our province green and clean: protection of a 1.8 million acre greenbelt, a new energy plan that's conserving more electricity, generating more renewable energy, and eliminating our reliance on coal. Five years after the report on the Walkerton drinking water tragedy, there are tougher laws and more enforcement to back them up.

But Ontario is about more than appreciating how far we've come. It's about seeing how much further we can go. Our province is about realizing our true potential — as individuals, and as families and businesses. The opportunity to move forward is what brought so many of us here from all over the world; and it's what keeps us here, year after year, generation following generation. So we have much more to do, together. This is our plan — the Ontario Liberal Plan — to keep moving our province forward. This is our plan to make Ontario the best it can be by working hard to ensure every Ontarian is at his or her best.

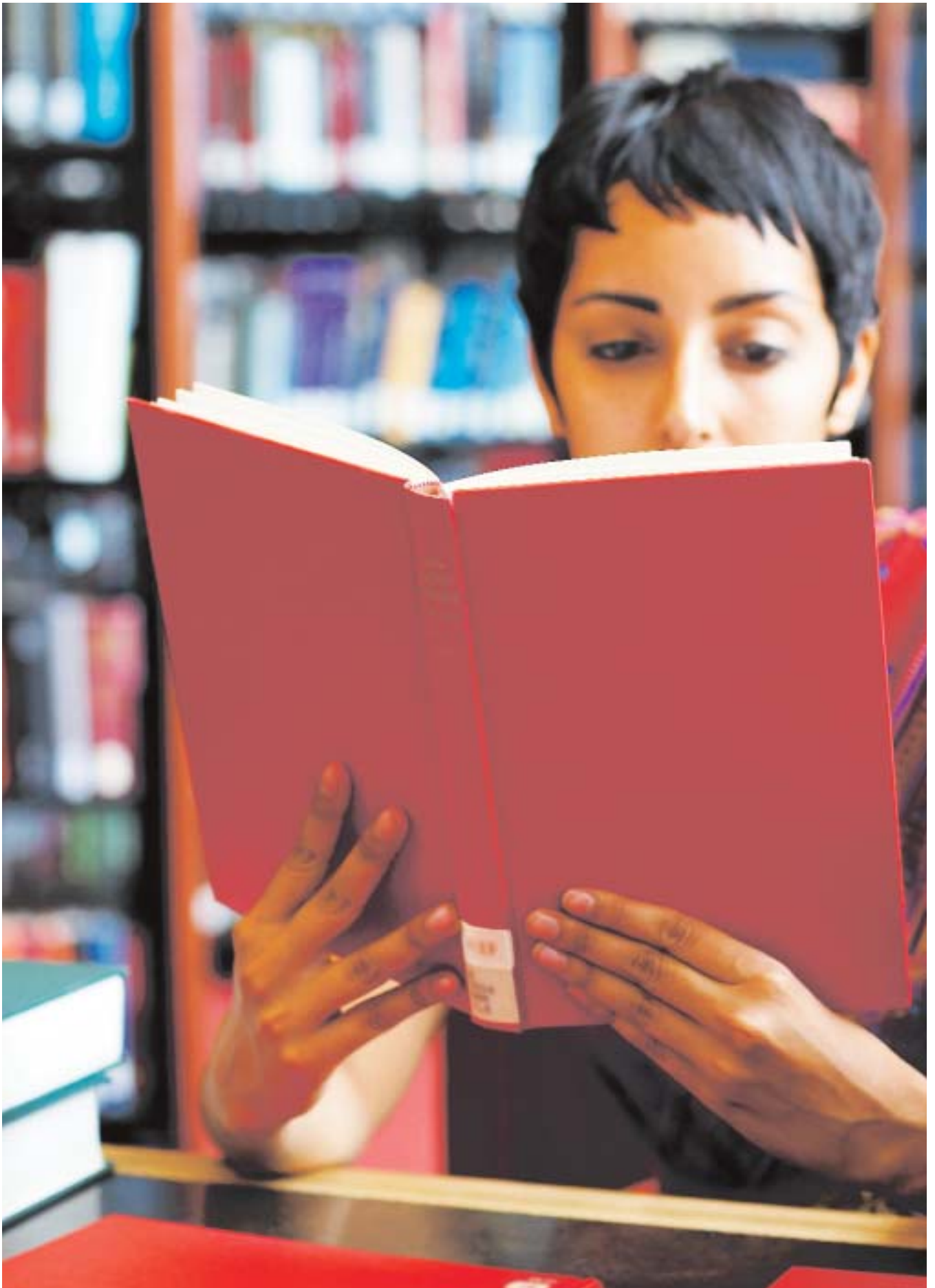
There is a lot at stake. Competition in the global economy is fierce. We have to keep moving forward or risk falling behind. Our people can take on the world — and win. But it's up to all of us to equip them to overcome the challenges, and seize the opportunities, of the 21st century. This is the plan to ensure Ontarians are well educated and highly skilled, that they can enjoy the best of health, supported by high quality, universal medicare, and that they can depend on both a cleaner environment and a stronger economy.

With this plan, we mark how far we've come, and thank Ontarians for working with us for the past four years. But, most importantly, we spell out where we want to lead our great province, how we will keep Ontario moving forward, in five key areas:

- A Smarter Ontario: Excellence in Publicly Funded Schools
- A Stronger Ontario: Creating Jobs in Today's Economy
- A Healthier Ontario: Strengthening Medicare for the Future
- A Greener Ontario: Leading on the Environment
- A Better Ontario for Families: Improving Quality of Life

We've come a long way. But we have much more to do. And I know we can do it the same way we've moved forward these past four years — by working and building and dreaming together.





# A Smarter Ontario:

## Excellence in Public Education

Education is our top priority because it's the key to helping individuals and families move forward. The more opportunities we seize to strengthen our skills and talents, the brighter our prospects will be — and the stronger our province will be.

Our strategy for improving our schools is simple: give each student the individual attention they need to succeed. Build on their individual strengths and help them meet their unique challenges.

Ontario Liberals want our schools to be places where all our children, from all faiths, come together to learn from one another and grow together.

Together, Ontarians have laid a strong foundation over the last four years. We've invested an unprecedented 11 billion new dollars in our schools — which was paid for, in part, by cancelling the last plan to send public money to private schools.

In 2003, the Rozanski report recommended an additional \$1.7 billion per year be put into our schools. Ontario Liberals have more than doubled that investment. This year, we are spending \$3.7 billion more on education than the previous government. We've hired 8,990 more teachers, thousands more support workers, invested in safer schools and bought more books and supplies to give our students what they need to succeed.

“*The Liberal government has done what very few governments around the world have been able to do. It has combined clear leadership and direction from the centre with a strong sense of partnership with local school boards and schools across the province. Because of this in four short years it has accomplished substantial improvements in literacy and mathematics province-wide—but more than this it has established the conditions—the commitment skill and energy—for going even further in the next period.*”

Michael Fullan, Former Dean of OISE

Our investments are paying off: class sizes are down, test scores are up, and more students are graduating every year. A record number of Ontarians are reaching for higher post-secondary education and, after losing a staggering 26 million learning days under the previous government, peace and stability is the order of the day in our publicly-funded schools.

All of this success — which we’ve achieved, together, over the past four years — is just the beginning.

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 make certain we take positive action if a student, or school, is struggling. Building on the success of our first term, we can make our publicly-funded education system one of the very best in the world.

**WE WILL:**

- Reach every student
- Build even stronger foundations
- Raise the bar on student achievement
- Help more people go to college and university

## Reach Every Student

We will create opportunities for all Ontario children to realize their potential. Every child is unique and deserves the opportunity to build on their strengths and explore their interests. We will do more to make sure our students receive support that is tailored to their needs.

### **WE WILL:**

- Expand after-school homework help and introduce online homework help
- Create specialized schools in every school board. These schools will appeal to young people with strong interest in the trades, math, science, arts and athletics
- Increase ESL funding another 18% and special needs funding another 8%
- Expand Family Literacy Centres across the province, so families from all backgrounds can help their children arrive at school ready to learn
- 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. The Fund will enable strategic class size reductions, ensure a successful transition for struggling grade 7 and 8 students and allow for greater investment to support individualized learning in areas like arts and skills technology programs
- Expand the successful Pathways to Education program, to give more students from at risk neighbourhoods a fair shot at success
- Create teams of social workers, youth workers and police to work with at-risk students to make sure they have the support they need to succeed
- Provide \$10 million to prepare schools to deliver IBI therapy on-site for the first time, a step forward made possible by our earlier decision to scrap the age-six limit for children with autism

## Stronger Foundations

Together, through hard work and a dramatic increase in funding, we have laid a strong foundation of success. Now is the time to strengthen that foundation even more.

### 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 to ensure there's enough money — and that it's going to the right places
- Double 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
- Expand our groundbreaking Character Education program to all schools in Ontario, to ensure students learn common values such as respect and integrity
- Work with police and community groups to add more prevention initiatives to our safe-schools strategy
- Hire more support workers and vice principals to ensure schools are clean and well-supervised
- 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
- Make schools greener: make sure all new schools will conform to better energy efficiency standards and environmental education will be part of every child's learning

Michael Barber, chief advisor on education to Prime Minister Tony Blair from 2001–2005, in his own account of education reform in Britain —Instruction to Deliver—underscores the importance of central leadership in driving progress in education:

“It should be possible to create consciously a guiding coalition, and indeed I have seen it done well in relation to education in Ontario...It has enabled [Premier McGuinty] to keep on top of delivering important promises such as improving literacy in elementary schools...”

Michael Barber, Instruction to Deliver, p.236/292

## Raising the Bar

We will continue our drive to help all our children meet high academic standards.

### WE WILL:

- Complete our drive to have 75% of kids meet the provincial standard in reading, writing and math
- Raise the graduation rate to 85% by 2010 by providing special support for students at risk of dropping out and a new specialized school for adult learners to come back and finish high school
- Expand our Schools Helping Schools program — which is about sharing success across the system
- Complete our plan to cap class sizes at 20 kids in the early years
- Create a professional learning scholarship so educators can improve their skills

## Help More People Go on to College, University or an Apprenticeship

For Ontario to be at its best, we need all Ontarians at their best.

Our \$6.2 billion Reaching Higher plan — the largest investment in higher education in 40 years — is well underway. We have created 86,000 new spaces in universities and colleges, doubled student aid, and provided grants to 120,000 needy students every year. At the same time, we've created 6,000 new apprenticeships.

Our colleges and universities are moving forward again. Higher education is more accessible than it has been in decades. Over the next four years, we need to keep working to make it affordable for everyone.

### **WE WILL:**

- Introduce a special distance grant for students from remote areas
- Provide a new textbook and technology grant of \$300 per student to help them get started each year at school
- 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
- Work with the college sector and non-profit groups to design and deliver an adult literacy curriculum
- Increase new apprenticeships by a full 25%



# A Stronger Ontario:

## Creating Jobs in Today's Economy

In today's world, the most investment and the best jobs go to places with a smart, healthy workforce, modern infrastructure, strong support for innovation, competitive taxes and sound fiscal management.

Some of our competitors, such as China and India, have populations that exceed a billion people. There are only 13 million of us here in Ontario. And yet, we can take on the world and win. But to succeed, we must be 13 million strong.

We believe that moving forward in the global economy demands that government be more than a spectator. It has to champion our people and our businesses, so that together, we are a genuine, competitive force to be reckoned with.

Our approach has been getting results. Over the past four years, hundreds of thousands of new jobs have been created in Ontario. And they're good jobs. In fact, over 80% of these new jobs have been full-time and more than 95% are in occupations paying \$19 per hour or more.

By championing our auto sector, we secured \$7 billion in new investment. For the first time since the car was invented, Ontario has surpassed Michigan as the continent's leading auto producer, for three years running.

We've launched a \$30 billion infrastructure plan to renew our roads, bridges, public transit, and community facilities. We have brought 3,000 megawatts of new power online while advancing projects that will generate more than 10,000 new megawatts. And we have invested \$1.7 billion in our innovation and commercialization program to turn great Ontario ideas into great Ontario jobs.

We continue to lower business property taxes, as we phase out the capital tax completely by 2010.

All of this while hard working Ontarians eliminated the hidden \$5.6 billion deficit we inherited. The budget is balanced. And you know it is balanced because in keeping with our new law, the province's finances have been reviewed by the auditor.

Over the next four years we will grow our economy and keep moving forward.

**WE WILL:**

- Attract the next generation of jobs
- Build strength from diversity
- Expand opportunity for all Ontarians
- Maintain strong fiscal management

## Attracting the Next Generation of Jobs

Ontario Liberals know that government can be a positive force in securing new jobs for Ontarians. We will continue our entrepreneurial approach over the next four years.

### WE WILL:

- Expand our Next Generation Jobs Fund to \$1.15 billion to support job creation in areas of great potential for Ontario;
  - i. Clean automotive and other green technology
  - ii. Health and biotechnology research and development
  - iii. Creative industries like digital media and information and communications technology
  - iv. Pharmaceutical research and manufacturing
- Building on our success in attaining fairness for Ontarians from the federal government in immigration and social service funding, we will continue to fight for fairness by;
  - i. Aggressively calling on the federal government to match our strategic investments — in particular the Next Generation Jobs Fund and our Advanced Manufacturing Investment Strategy
  - ii. Demanding an overhaul of the federal Employment Insurance system, which currently provides Ontarians with less support than Canadians in other provinces
- Establish Investment Ontario Inc., an independent agency modeled on successful efforts in places like Ireland. Investment Ontario will unite the government with our private sector to secure new investment and jobs
- Increase support for the Innovation Demonstration Fund, to help bring new technologies to market faster and create Ontario jobs

“Dalton McGuinty’s government understands the power of innovation. He has made smart investments to create new jobs in high tech industries while preserving good jobs in Ontario’s traditional industries like automotive, resources, and financial services.”

David Pecaut, Chair, Toronto City Summit Alliance

- Build a highly competitive workforce through our Smarter Ontario plan
- 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
- Working with the tourism industry we will conduct a comprehensive competitiveness study, increase funding for festivals and events, and enhance marketing efforts to promote Ontario destinations
- Create a centre of excellence for education in financial services, to keep this job-creating sector of our economy strong
- Help rural communities prosper by increasing the rural economic development fund by 50%
- Support our agricultural sector with a risk management program to help farmers cope with internationally subsidized competition
- Create a \$20 million Eastern Ontario development fund to attract investment to rural, Eastern Ontario
- 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

## Build Strength from Diversity

Every year, Ontario welcomes over 140,000 newcomers. Our diversity has become a great strength. We are home to people from 200 different ethnic origins, who speak 130 different languages.

Having the best and the brightest from all over the world come to Ontario moves us forward. It means that Ontario businesses can choose from a workforce that can speak any language and access any market.

Over the past four years, we've worked hard to support our newcomers, by making our province an even more welcoming place.

We passed the landmark Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, which will ensure that internationally trained individuals can work in their field of expertise. We hired Ontario's first ever 'Fairness Commissioner', to advocate for internationally trained professionals. We signed the first-ever Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement to invest \$920 million in settlement and training. That agreement marked a victory in the Premier's fight for fairness for Ontarians. We are investing \$53 million in Bridge Training Programs, helping thousands of newcomers work in their chosen trade and professions.

In the past four years, Ontario has accredited more internationally trained than domestically trained physicians, for the first time ever.

At the same time we celebrate our differences, we will build on common ground, and the fundamental values all Ontarians share.

As Premier McGuinty said when he prevented Ontario women from being exploited by Sharia Law, we come from every corner of the planet, practice every religion, speak every language, and embrace every culture — but there must be one law, for all Ontarians.

There is even more to do — to welcome new Ontarians to their new home and give them opportunities to realize their potential and help us move forward.

**WE WILL:**

- Better compete for global talent by creating the Opportunities Ontario Program to speed up the immigration process for highly skilled professionals and international students
- Create an International Ontario Strategy to attract skilled people from around the world, including:
  - i. Posting Ontario immigration representatives in our existing International marketing centres offices, located in key cities around the world
  - ii. Partnering with Ontario universities to attract the best international students
  - iii. Strengthening our laws to protect international students and creating a Registry of Approved Schools and an International Student Support Centre
- Ease the transition into Ontario by creating a new Orientation Ontario course, to help newcomers get off on the right foot. We will support the course with a call centre to assist newcomers with follow-up support
- Help newcomers upgrade their skills by expanding the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to include books, language courses and bridging programs
- Help newcomers access services more easily by concentrating services in public schools located in neighbourhoods with high newcomer populations
- Increase English as a second language funding for schools
- Give more newcomers Ontario job experience by expanding the Ontario Public Services' internship program sevenfold and expanding support for mentoring partnerships with the private sector

“I’m just thrilled by the legislation...Dalton McGuinty is a good man, and he really heard us. He has lifted every child in Ontario out of poverty. We never dreamed we’d get anything this good.”

June Callwood, in regards to the Ontario Child Benefit

## Expand Opportunity for all Ontarians

As Ontario Liberals, we want all our families to have opportunities for success and a decent standard of living. We want to move all Ontarians forward.

We raised the minimum wage four times and put in place a plan to raise it again to \$10.25 by 2010. We raised social assistance and disability support rates and created the groundbreaking Ontario Child Benefit, which will deliver up to \$1,100 to low-income children, whether their parents are working or not. We delivered 35,000 new housing allowances and have funded over 18,000 new units of affordable housing. We delivered 22,000 new child care spaces to ensure that more families have the support they need to raise their children. Finally, we invested an unprecedented \$11 billion in our schools and created 120,000 grants for in need post-secondary students, because we know there is no better poverty reduction strategy than strong, publicly funded education.

There is more to do to keep our people and our economy strong.

### WE WILL:

- 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 steps 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. We will ensure this strategy contains a mix of non-profit and co-operative housing, and takes advantage of creative financial options
- Join with financial institutions to create a new program to help low-income Ontarians build equity and save for a home, their or their children’s education, or to start their own business
- Create a social venture capital fund at Social Innovation Generation@MaRS to find new solutions to difficult social problems

## Maintain Strong Fiscal Management

Ontarians work hard and contribute much to the public services we all count on.

One of the government's most important jobs is to manage public money wisely — and be straight with the public about the province's finances. One of our first acts in office was to ask the Auditor to give Ontarians an accurate picture of the books. He revealed a hidden \$5.6 billion deficit. This presented us with a tough choice. We could cut the services we were elected to improve, or we could raise taxes to support those services.

We chose to improve public services and broke our campaign commitment not to raise taxes. Four years later, moving forward with Ontarians we have eliminated the massive deficit we inherited. And we put a law in place requiring the Auditor to examine the books before an election, so no government can ever hide a deficit again.

Over the next four years, we will continue to manage tax payers dollars wisely and in an open and transparent fashion.

### **WE WILL:**

- 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
- Reduce the paper burden on business through a “cap and trade” system for government regulations. Every time a new regulation is put in place, an old one will have to be removed
- Expand our groundbreaking money-back guarantee program for birth certificates to other government services
- Create an online option for more government services and deliver more services at family-friendly times, later in the evening and on weekends



# A Healthier Ontario:

## Strengthening Medicare for the Future

When you — or someone you love — is sick, little else matters. For the past four years, we have worked hard to get you the health care you need. We set five ambitious targets: shorter wait times, more doctors, more nurses, new hospitals and reduced illness through health promotion.

Health care is moving forward and producing real results.

Ontarians are getting faster access to care: wait times for cancer, cardiac and cataract surgeries, hip and knee replacements and MRI/CT scans are all down. Half a million more Ontarians have a family doctor. We're hiring 8,000 new nurses and we have created 150 new family health teams. Over 100 new hospital projects have been completed or are underway. And we've reduced smoking rates by almost 20% with the most aggressive anti-smoking campaign in North America.

Children born in Ontario are now screened for more disorders than in any other province. Our new, publicly-funded immunizations have helped over 1.8 million kids, saving families up to \$600 per child. And we've made physical activity mandatory in elementary schools — all to keep Ontarians healthy.

Yet there is more to do to strengthen medicare. That's especially true when you consider how a growing and aging population is placing ever larger demands on medicare.

Our Ontario health premium generates nearly \$3 billion to support healthcare. All told, we are now spending \$9 billion per year more on healthcare than the previous government.

This is our three-part plan to keep medicare moving forward:

- Create more access to better care
- Give more power to patients
- Promote wellness and prevent illness

“As a family physician who helps train future family doctors, I have been thrilled to see the increased number of international medical graduates in our training program. These physicians bring enormous skill from their countries of origin and will help improve access to family medicine and primary care in Ontario.”

Dr. Danielle Martin, Family Physician, Women’s College Hospital

## More Access to Better Care

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:

- Expand our progress on wait times to more services: emergency room visits, children's surgery and general surgery. Experts will tell us what wait times should be and we will meet or beat those targets
- 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
- Create 100 more medical school spaces and accredit more internationally trained doctors
- 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
- Invest \$100M in growth funding for hospitals in our fastest growing communities
- Continue to enhance the strength of mental health and addictions services with increased funding and strong provincial policy direction

## Power to Patients

We've made great strides over the past four years toward making healthcare more patient centred. We've invested in information technology that allows Ontarians to see wait times across the province. We've expanded patient choice by giving Ontarians the power to get services outside their community if the wait time is shorter somewhere else. We've expanded home care services so seniors can have a more realistic choice to stay at home in dignity. And we've expanded long-term care homes to make sure a bed is there when a member of your family needs it.

To further empower patients, we will:

- 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
- Provide patients with more choice regarding where and when they receive treatment for conditions like cancer and cardiac disease
- Create an electronic health record by 2015 and give Ontarians control over the information contained in it
- Increase the Northern Health Travel Grant and accommodation costs allowance

## Promote Wellness and Prevent Illness

While it's important to treat illness when it occurs, it's even better to prevent it. We need to build on the success we've had reducing tobacco use by targeting other causes of potential illness such as childhood obesity. And we need to do more to help the one in three Ontarians living with a chronic illness. Over the next four years, we plan to launch a battle against such illnesses, starting with diabetes.

“Nursing has always been the key to a strong health-care system. Over the past four years, the government has implemented policies that have positively influenced the nursing profession. These include: the full-time new graduate guarantee, a nurse practitioner led clinic, hiring thousands of nurses, and progress toward 70% full-time employment for all nurses. These are strong initial steps that are necessary to make a difference in our health care system.”

Mary Ferguson-Paré RN, PhD, President,  
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)

**WE WILL:**

- 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 — all designed to improve health and reduce health care costs
- Build on our screening and vaccination programs to increase early detection and facilitate the effective treatment of cancer. 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
- Following the success of our efforts to reduce smoking, we will launch a multi-pronged campaign to reduce the rate of childhood obesity
- 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
- Require that healthy food be served in all school cafeterias and expand the number of intramural activities available to students
- Help even more Ontarians quit smoking by removing the provincial sales tax from nicotine patches and by making those — and other therapies — more widely available
- Tackle the environmental causes of illness, by eliminating coal-fired electricity plants by 2014, banning the cosmetic use of pesticides, and introducing a tough new toxic reduction law that requires polluting companies to reduce their emissions



# A Greener Ontario:

## Leading on the Environment

Ontario Liberals know that our quality of life depends on the health of our natural environment. That's why we have moved forward aggressively to make Ontario a leader on the environment.

We have acted decisively because we know how important it is for Ontario families to be able to enjoy a clean, safe environment. We want to be able to enjoy the wonder of nature with our families, to breathe cleaner air and depend on the water from our taps.

Our first-term agenda on the environment was the most ambitious in the province's history. Together, we protected a Greenbelt larger than PEI across the Greater Toronto Area, put in place Canada's best Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. We also implemented every single recommendation of the Walkerton Inquiry to ensure such a tragedy never happens again in Ontario.

We closed the single largest source of air pollution in the GTA, the Lakeview coal plant, and have brought the province from last to first in Canada when it comes to renewable energy. In 2003, Ontario had 10 wind turbines. Now, we have close to 700 either in place or in development, while one of the largest solar energy projects in the world is being built in Sarnia.

“I believe it puts Ontario now at the absolute forefront in North America. You’re going to join some of the leading countries like Denmark and Germany and I think you’re going to force the rest of this continent to follow suit.”

Dr. David Suzuki on Ontario’s Renewables Plan,  
National Post, March 22, 2006

Most recently, we launched a new phase of our Climate Change Plan. It commits \$17.5 billion to a massive expansion of rapid transit, to reduce gridlock and air pollution. And it includes the \$650 million Next Generation Jobs Fund, designed to leverage investment in clean cars and other green technologies, proving a stronger economy and a cleaner Ontario go hand in hand.

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.

We need to keep moving forward on the environment, because there is much more to do.

**WE WILL:**

- Fight climate change by greening the economy
- Tackle environmental causes of illness
- Provide stronger protection for the natural environment

“Dalton McGuinty has been one of the greenest Premiers Canada has ever seen. Over the past four years, Ontario has become a North American leader in ensuring clean water, preserving endangered species, preventing pollution and conserving greenspace. That is a remarkable record. And with climate change emerging as one of the greatest challenges facing our nation (and world), there couldn't be a more important time to have a strong environmental leader at the province's helm.”

Professor Stewart Elgie, University of Ottawa and Founder,  
Sierra Legal Defence Fund

## Fighting Climate Change

Our comprehensive climate change plan has put Ontario at the forefront in North America. Our emissions reduction targets are tough but realistic. And they're backed up by strategic investments in key areas like transit, energy and funds to attract green investment and jobs to 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
- Make Ontario greener by planting 50 million new trees by 2020
- Eliminate inefficient, old lightbulbs
- Provide financial assistance to communities to help save energy and reduce emissions that cause climate change

## Tackle Environmental Causes

The health of our environment is a key factor in determining whether or not we stay healthy. We will work to reduce the environmental causes of sickness in Ontario.

**WE WILL:**

- Create a tough new toxic reduction law that requires companies that emit toxic pollution to reduce their emissions over time
- Continue our plan to replace coal-fired electricity in Ontario. We eliminated one third of coal emissions in our first mandate. We will eliminate the next third by the end of 2011 and phase it out completely by the end of 2014
- 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

## Stronger Protections

Together, we have made Ontario one of North America's leading jurisdictions when it comes to protecting our air, water, greenspace and wilderness. We will build on this solid record of progress in our next mandate.

**WE WILL:**

- Implement our nation-leading Endangered Species Act, beginning with a plan to protect large scale areas for caribou habitat in the Boreal Forest
- 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
- Consider applications by regional and county governments to grow the Greenbelt
- Work with our northern and native communities to implement a long-term plan that protects the Boreal Forest in Ontario's Far North
- Support sustainable forestry by purchasing more FSC certified paper
- Build on our efforts to reduce plastic bags and recycle beverage containers by working with retailers in the private sector to further reduce packaging and encourage diversion



# A Better Ontario for Families:

## Improving Quality of Life

Moving Ontario forward means moving Ontario families forward. Our families deserve a government that works as hard as they do. They deserve a government that understands their challenges, their hopes and their dreams. Most important, they deserve a government that works with them to create the opportunity they need to realize those dreams.

Over the past four years, all of our work has been directed toward making Ontario a better place for families. Our education agenda is all about making sure our kids get a good start and a fair shot at success. Our health agenda is all about helping families stay healthy and improving care for our loved ones when they are sick. Our economic agenda is about securing jobs, so moms and dads can provide for their families and have confidence in an even more prosperous future for their kids.

Together, we fought hard to create the Greenbelt across the Greater Toronto Area so that families in our most populous region could enjoy the beauty of our natural environment, right in their backyard. We created the country's toughest Clean Water Act so they can have confidence in the water coming out of the tap. We're replacing coal-fired power so we can all breathe a little easier and we've given families the tools to fight climate change, right where they live.

We've hired 1,000 new police officers so families can feel secure in their homes and on the streets of their communities. We specifically targeted gang and drug activity to protect our kids from the criminal elements in society that would prey on them. And we've funded positive local initiatives in at risk communities so that those kids have a real alternative to joining a gang.

We are fighting gridlock with unprecedented investments in new rapid transit and new or improved roads, so families can get home in time to spend more time together. Move Ontario 2020 will cut commute times for many Ontarians by half an hour. That could mean the difference between hearing about your son or daughter's first soccer goal and seeing it with your own eyes.

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 this platform, Moving Forward Together, is designed to give life to those values.

## Helping Families Better Manage the Cost of Living

Ontario Liberals understand that families work hard to make ends meet — and that Ontarians are contributing more through the Ontario health premium to secure the future of medicare for themselves and their loved ones. It would be irresponsible to remove that money from the health care system, given growing demands and cost pressures.

We are determined to help families move forward as they work hard to make ends meet.

**WE WILL:**

- Help families with the cost of taking care of an aging parent or relative at home
- Help families stay healthy by removing the PST on things like bicycles and helmets and providing a tax credit for youth organized physical activities
- Create financial incentives and breaks for families to purchase cleaner, greener appliances and services for their homes
- 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
- Through the Ontario Child Benefit, provide up to \$1,100 per child to lower-income families to help them get ahead
- Increase the minimum wage to \$10.25 by 2010
- Provide a new textbook and technology grant of \$300 per post-secondary student to help them get started each year at school
- 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
- Implement our smart meter plan, which will help families manage their energy costs

“*The Ontario Child Benefit will reduce barriers faced by families with children who are trying to leave welfare for work. At the same time, it will help reduce child poverty and hunger...We congratulate the government for having the courage to take on this significant issue.*”

Gail Nyberg, Executive Director, Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank

## Tough on Crime, Tough on the Causes of Crime

Every family deserves to feel secure in their own home and on the streets of their community. The Ontario Liberal approach to personal and community security is to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime.

We've added 1,000 new municipal police officers and 200 new OPP officers. We passed a new law that requires hospitals to report gun shot wounds to the police, the first of its kind in North America. We implemented a \$68-million Guns and Gangs strategy. It includes specialized police and prosecutors and established a new provincial operations centre — the first of its kind in Canada — bringing police, prosecutors and parole officers under one roof to better fight gun and gang violence. We created a Provincial Advisory Group on Marijuana Grow Operations and a Crystal Meth Task Force to combat the illegal drug trade.

At the same time, we are providing positive alternatives to crime, especially for our youth. We launched the \$45 million Youth Challenge Fund and the \$28.5 million Youth Opportunities Strategy to give young people, especially those in at risk communities, real opportunities to achieve a brighter future. We have opened schools for activities after-hours and on weekends. And we have raised the school leaving age from 16 to 18.

## There Remains More to do to Keep Families Feeling Safe and Secure.

### WE WILL:

- 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
- Crack down on dangerous driving and street racing with more police, aerial surveillance and tougher penalties
- Continue our fight against guns and gang violence by expanding our Guns and Gangs Task Force to more communities and providing more positive alternatives to crime for young people
- Do more to help women fleeing domestic violence. Build on our \$82M domestic violence plan by restoring funding levels for shelters to pre-1995 levels

## Build Stronger Communities

Our quality of life depends on strong, vibrant communities. We want Ontario families from all regions — large and small, rural and urban — to be able to count on the services that make our communities strong.

Ontario communities are moving forward and getting stronger again. We've made unprecedented investments in local infrastructure and unloaded significant costs from municipal ratepayers.

But there's more to do.

### **WE WILL:**

- Upload the full cost of both the Ontario Disability Support Program and the Ontario Drug Benefit over 4 years, relieving over \$900 million per year in pressure from local property taxpayers
- 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
- Make sure families can depend on cleaner, affordable electricity, by continuing to rebuild Ontario's energy system — with the first long-term plan in a generation
- Provide quality schools for our kids and modern hospitals for our sick, with our plan to build or rebuild 6,800 schools and 100 hospitals across the province
- Help families spend more time together, by reducing gridlock across the GTA with Move Ontario 2020, our \$17.5 billion rapid transit plan
- Preserve the unique character of small-town Ontario by redeveloping historic downtowns through a new partnership

## Time for Families

There is nothing more valuable to families than time together. And yet it seems tougher than ever to find, with so many of us living such busy lives.

That's why, in the first year of our next mandate, we will create a new long weekend in February.

## Helping Ontarians Start a Family

More and more people are having trouble getting their families started because of infertility. Ontario Liberals believe that everyone should have a fair opportunity to create a family.

Over the next four years, we will shine a light on this unspoken problem and help to solve it. We will help more Ontarians realize their dream of having a family. Here's what we'll do:

- Make fertility monitoring available earlier in life, so people know whether or not they are likely to have a problem having children
- Create an expert panel to examine all issues related to fertility treatment and adoption and recommend ways to make both easier and more affordable

“ This is the boldest, most visionary development in the history of the Greater Toronto Area and will transform the region into a community where public transit makes a real difference. Where there’s a will, there’s a way, and this announcement makes it clear that this government has the will to make it happen. ”

Michael W. Roschlau, President and Chief Executive Officer,  
Canadian Urban Transit Association

## Support for our Military Families

Finally, we live at a time when our military, and their families, are making tremendous sacrifices on our behalf.

Many of those families, hailing from across Canada, are temporarily living at Ontario bases. The last thing military families from other provinces should have to worry about is whether they will be able to receive health care and other public services here in our province.

### **WE WILL:**

- 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





Authorized by the CFO for the Ontario Liberal Party



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