


# CHANGE

for the better



**Andrea  
Horwath**  
NDP  **NPD**



a message from  
**Andrea Horwath**

Dear friends,

I'm running for premier because now is the time for change for the better.

It's time for something completely different.

People are feeling cynical about Ontario politics today. After 15 years of Liberal government, families are feeling squeezed, services have been cut and people are working harder but not getting ahead. After decades of switching between Liberal and Conservative premiers, things just seem to go from bad to worse.

It's time to stop settling.

Let's replace the cynicism with hope. Let's have a government that listens. That gets it. That solves problems instead of creating them.

Let's make drug and dental coverage a reality for every last Ontarian. Let's make university and college, hydro bills, and child care all more affordable for everyone. Let's invest in services like transit and affordable housing. Let's make the big changes our health care system needs to cut the wait times and end hallway medicine.

Let's get it done.

Andrea Horwath  
Leader, Ontario's NDP



**Andrea will deliver better health care,  
and make Ontario a better place to work  
and a more affordable place to live.**

## **Five changes for the better**



Provide drug and dental coverage for all Ontarians



Take on student debt by converting loans to grants, and creating thousands of student co-op jobs



End hallway medicine and fix seniors care



Protect middle class families by having the wealthiest people and most profitable corporations pay their fair share



Cut hydro bills 30% by bringing Hydro One back into public hands



**New services that make  
life better for everyone..... 6**



**Better health care..... 14**



**Better long-term care ..... 18**



**Healthier communities ..... 22**



**Overhauling mental health  
and addictions services..... 32**



**Better schools,  
better education..... 36**

**More affordability**.....44



**The safe, healthy province we deserve** .....52



**A modern economy that works for everyone** ..... 70



**Better government: replacing cynicism with hope** .....78



**Reconciliation**.....82



**Fiscal plan**.....88





**NEW SERVICES**  
that make life better  
for everyone

Public services make life better for all Ontarians. They help families stay on track. They help communities grow. And they help businesses succeed.

A strong network of public services has allowed Ontario to lead the country for decades. But Liberal and Conservative governments have eroded those services – with cuts, with privatization, or by failing to keep up with demand or inflation. Now, services you’ve come to count on aren’t there when you need them.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP understand the difference that quality public services can make. That’s why we aren’t just going to undo the damage of 20 years of cuts and neglect. We’re going to move Ontario forward with bold new universal programs that meet the needs of a changing, modern province: dental care, prescription drug care and affordable child care.

## Our changes for the better

- ➔ We will introduce Dental Care for Everyone
- ➔ We will bring in Pharmacare for Everyone
- ➔ We will provide free child care for families who need it most, and an average daily cost of \$12 for all others

# Ontario Benefits: dental care for everyone

**You can find the full plan at [ontariondp.ca/druganddental](http://ontariondp.ca/druganddental)**

**ONE IN THREE** working people don't have a workplace benefits plan. Too many people go without basic dental care because they can't afford to see a dentist.

Every three minutes, someone visits an Ontario doctor's office or emergency room to get emergency care for a dental problem. And poor oral health can even lead to heart disease.

Nobody should have to live in pain, or suffer permanent damage because they couldn't afford dental care. And nobody should have to rack up credit card bills just to get essential care for themselves or their kids.

That's why Andrea Horwath is committed to dental care for everyone — delivering lower costs, less worry and better health for Ontarians.

## **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will ensure that every Ontarian and their family will have decent dental benefits. Those benefits will

apply no matter their age, income, or employment or health status, and they'll come either through work or with your health card.

We will begin by setting a minimum standard of dental coverage, ensuring people have access to essential care.

We will require every employer to provide dental benefits to workers and their families that meet a minimum standard of coverage. For two-thirds of workers who already have health benefits, our plan will mean little or no change or increased costs for those employers who already provide them. If you already have coverage, you'll continue to have it.

With our plan, **every worker will have workplace benefits for themselves and their family.** That includes people in part-time or casual jobs. And it includes independent workers, like people on contract or freelance, who need an innovative new model for health benefits that works in the changing economy — a model where health benefits follow the person, not the job.

**“We thank the NDP for your leadership... and setting the bar high with this comprehensive forward-looking Ontario Benefits plan. It is setting a gold standard in terms of policy thinking on access to oral health care.”**

— Association of Ontario Health Centres



## **Mohammad Akbar** Windsor



**I currently work on contract, and don't have any benefits. When I was in my late teens, I worked in construction and I had an accident. I broke one of my front teeth. Without a dental plan, I couldn't get proper treatment until eight years later. I had awful self-esteem because of that broken tooth, and to this day I've never had my wisdom teeth removed, which has led to pain I am still dealing with. I've been told I need preventative dental work to avoid problems in the future, but I don't know how I'll afford it.**

**The Ontario NDP's Dental Care for Everyone plan will mean a significant improvement in my health and wellness and an ease of anxiety. It will absolutely change my life.**

And employers who aren't currently offering benefits that meet the standard will have two options: find a workplace benefits plan that does, or sign up for Ontario Benefits.

Ontario Benefits will be an innovative new workplace benefits plan — an affordable way for employers to offer a decent level of benefits coverage for their workers. The NDP's vision is to grow Ontario Benefits over time to ensure workers receive additional workplace benefits like vision care and registered therapies.

Ontario Benefits will be funded by employer and employee contributions just like other mandatory benefits like Employment Insurance and the Canada Pension Plan. Public data shows that private dental coverage costs

employers approximately 1% of payroll. The cost to employers to provide Ontario Benefits will be comparable.

46% of people will receive Ontario Benefits for themselves and their dependent children at no cost. For people earning under \$30,000 annually before tax, their entire contributions to Ontario Benefits will be refunded to them by the government. And people earning up to \$50,000 will receive a partial refund on a sliding scale. For people who earn more, the maximum that any person will pay for Ontario Benefits is \$4.33 per week for dental coverage that takes care of themselves and their whole family. The cost to government to provide Ontario Benefits is estimated at \$575 million.

# Ontario Public Dental: covering seniors and the most vulnerable

**You can find the full plan at [ontariondp.ca/druganddental](http://ontariondp.ca/druganddental)**

**TODAY, NEARLY TWO-THIRDS** of seniors have no retiree benefits, leaving many seniors struggling to get dental care on fixed incomes.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Ontario can do better. New Democrats believe that dental care must be accessible for every Ontarian — including seniors who don't have retiree benefits, and every family living on social assistance.

## **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **extend public dental coverage to every senior without retiree benefits, and to every person on social assistance**, ensuring that over 2 million more Ontarians are eligible for public dental coverage. Ontario Public Dental will ensure that seniors and people on social assistance also have access to the minimum standards of dental care, which will provide a level of coverage comparable to existing public dental programs. They will have the choice between seeing their dentist or accessing care from a public provider.

We will work with dental professionals and health agencies and stakeholders to ensure people can get publicly-funded dental coverage in the setting of their choice, whether it's in a private dental clinic or in Community Health Centres, Aboriginal Health Access Centres, or public health units. And we will **expand public dental services at those locations with capital investments of at least \$25 million** to build new dental suites and operate mobile dental buses, especially in rural, remote and Northern communities.

We will support the work of local health organizations to build community programs for the most vulnerable people. And we will work with long-term care providers to ensure their residents have full access to publicly funded dental services. Our first-year investment is \$670 million and will grow to meet demand and increase sustainability.

It's an historic investment — and combined with Ontario Benefits, it will mean every Ontario resident has a dental care plan, and access to excellent oral health care when they need it.

# Pharmacare: so you can get the medication you need

**You can find the full plan at [ontariondp.ca/druganddental](http://ontariondp.ca/druganddental)**

**NO ONE SHOULD** ever go without the medication they need because of the cost.

But for 2.2 million Ontarians, a prescription comes with a price tag — because they have no drug coverage at all. One quarter of Ontarians have not been taking the medicine they're prescribed because of the cost. And all too often, the result is a trip to an emergency room and a hospital stay. The result is a heavier toll on their own health, and higher costs for Ontario's health services.

A universal prescription medication plan, or pharmacare, is the right thing to do — medically and financially. Pharmacare means savings for anyone who needs a prescription. It means savings for our health system, since taking your medication as prescribed

can prevent emergencies and more expensive treatment.

And since the province will have a lot more bargaining clout with big pharmaceutical companies when we're negotiating on behalf of 14 million Ontarians, we can negotiate better deals. That will mean savings for businesses and private payers that pay for employee drug benefits, too.

The federal government says it's studying possible models and approaches to a national drug plan — but families need help today. We shouldn't make Ontarians wait. It's time to show some leadership, and make life better for people.

## **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will make Ontario the first province with **universal pharmacare by 2020** — so every Ontarian can

## **Amanda Hosie** Brantford

I have diabetes and managing my disease is a constant struggle. When I finish school in September I will lose my prescription drug coverage. Right now I pay about \$30 per month — in September, that will jump to \$480. I'm 27 years old, and I am one of millions in Ontario left to fend for myself when it comes to prescription costs. Andrea's plan to cover everyone, regardless of age, will mean I can stay healthier, and stop stressing about where the money for my medicine will come from. We need universal pharmacare for everyone, and we need it now.



get the medication they need. It will mean lower costs, less worrying and better health for everyone. And unlike the Liberal government's plan, nobody will be excluded.

Pharmacare will begin with universal coverage for approximately 125 essential medicines, chosen through an independent process led by

the Committee to Evaluate Drugs. And we will work to expand the list quickly.

Pharmacare will complement Ontario's existing public drug programs, so no one will lose any coverage that they currently have. We will allocate an annual budget of at least \$475 million for it.

## \$12-a-day child care: quality, affordable care for our kids

**NOTHING'S MORE IMPORTANT** than knowing your children have the best, safest care possible. But the cost of child care is priced far out of reach for too many Ontario parents.

That has to change. Quality, affordable child care can make all the difference for working parents, offering peace of mind when they're at work earning a living, or at school gaining new skills and qualifications to help them get ahead.

After 15 years of Liberal government promises, Ontario is Canada's most expensive province for child care, with Toronto parents paying most of all. And with vows to slash billions from the provincial budget, the Conservatives will only make things worse.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will make sure every family can access affordable, high-quality, not-for-profit child care, based on three key principles:

- ➔ Child care must be affordable for everyone

- ➔ Public child care dollars should go to not-for-profit and public providers — funds shouldn't pad the profits of private companies
- ➔ Early childhood educators deserve a fair wage that respects the vital work they do

### Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will phase in an affordable, province-wide child care plan, starting with care for infants and toddlers in the second year of our mandate, and preschoolers in the third year. We will base our plan and costs on the Ontario Coalition for Better Childcare's recommendations.

**If your household income is under \$40,000, you won't have to pay** for public, licensed, not-for-profit child care. And if your household earns more, your fees will be based on ability to pay — with **the average cost coming to \$12 per day**. We will not reduce existing subsidies.

Affordable child care will create significant new demand, requiring more Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and high-quality, licensed, not-for-profit spaces.

We will immediately begin increasing the wages for ECEs to ensure people see this as a career that can support a family.

**We will expand the number of not-for-profit, licensed, affordable child care spaces in Ontario by 202,000 spaces — a 51% increase, adding more than 10% every year. We will**

work with school boards, community centres and public buildings to create new centres and spaces, with a priority on public schools. And we will work with Ontario colleges that have ECE programs to increase the number of Lab Programs where children of students receive care while their parents get hands-on learning.





**BETTER**  
health care

Ontarians are rightly proud of our public health care services. We count on them to be there when we need them; we want to know that everyone can get the care they need, when they need it. And we share a strong belief that care should be based on your health needs, not your ability to pay.

But those services are stretched to the limit. Caregivers and health professionals are working harder than ever. Yet after the drastic cuts of the Conservative years, and 15 years of neglect, frozen budgets and cuts under the Liberals, health care in Ontario is falling short of what families need. Waits are long. There's a hallway medicine crisis.

We don't have to settle for that anymore.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP believe that delivering quality public health care is the most important thing our government does. It's time to start moving forward again, so Ontarians can expect more from the health services we've built together.

## Our changes for the better

- ➔ We will increase hospital funding immediately by 5.3% with a new \$916 million additional investment, and ensure every hospital's annual funding will be at or above inflation, population growth and include the unique needs of each community, like aging populations
- ➔ We will put \$19 billion over 10 years into hospital capital expansion to meet growing capacity needs
- ➔ We will create 2,000 new hospital beds right now
- ➔ We will end arbitrary caps on surgeries to shorten wait times

# Ending hallway medicine

**IT'S THE NEW** normal in Ontario hospitals: waiting for hours in emergency rooms, only to end up on a gurney in a hallway — with no privacy or dignity — because there aren't enough hospital beds.

Years of cuts and funding freezes have pushed hospitals across Ontario into a dangerous overcrowding crisis. The last Conservative government shut down 28 hospitals, closed over 7,000 beds and laid off 6,000 nurses. And Kathleen Wynne froze hospital operating budgets for four years in a row, forcing hospitals to make deep cuts to keep up.

Today, many hospitals report occupancy rates of over 100% — far above the safe international standard of 85%. Surgeries are being routinely cancelled. And patients are being treated right in the hallway; in just one year, in just one hospital, Brampton Civic Hospital treated 4,352 patients in hallways.

Ontario patients — as well as their families, and the health workers and professionals caring for them — deserve so much better.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will restore hospital funding and ensure it keeps pace every year with inflation, population growth, aging and the unique needs of communities. **Funding will increase immediately by 5.3%.**

We will make sure that hospitals have the staff they need to provide excellent patient care. That begins with bringing all stakeholders and partners to the table for a comprehensive review of staffing needs. **We will stop any further layoffs of nurses and front-line health care workers.**

We will take immediate steps to expand hospital capacity — starting with funding for **2,000 hospital beds now.**

For the long term, we want to get it right. So we will bring health sector partners together to help us craft a comprehensive capacity plan — so we can build the capacity that hospitals need for our growing province. We will invest at least **\$19 billion over 10 years in hospital capital expansion** to meet growing capacity needs.

## New Annual Hospital Funding

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
<b>Base funding increase of 5.3% each year</b>	\$916 million	\$965 million	\$1.016 billion	\$1.07 billion
<b>At least 2,000 new beds</b>	\$312 million	\$328 million	\$346 million	\$364 million
<b>TOTAL NEW HOSPITAL FUNDING EACH YEAR</b>	<b>\$1.228 billion</b>	<b>\$1.293 billion</b>	<b>\$1.362 billion</b>	<b>\$1.434 billion</b>





## Ann Piper

Toronto

Just before Christmas, my mother fell very ill and needed to go to the hospital. As a nurse, I've worked in our city's hospitals my entire adult life. And I know that the situation inside our hospitals has been getting tougher and tougher. But I was still shocked that when my mom was admitted to the hospital, she was put not into a proper hospital bed, but onto a stretcher in a busy emergency room hallway. She spent two long days and two long nights there, in the noisy and crowded ER hallway, before she was finally moved onto the right floor.

We thought – okay, maybe the worst is over. But when she got to the new floor – she was just put in another hallway. I know this crisis didn't happen overnight – for decades, governments have cut our hospitals to the bone. And I want a premier who is going to change it! That premier is Andrea Horwath.

# Shorter waits for surgery

**NOBODY SHOULD HAVE** to wait for years on end for the surgery they need. And far too often in Ontario, patients reach their surgery date only to have it cancelled. Sometimes they get a cancellation call at home, because Ontario's hospitals don't have enough space and resources for them to come in. And sometimes they're already in hospital — and after an often painful night of fasting and watching the hours tick down, they find out their surgery has been postponed.

**“Ontario does not report full wait times.”**

— Auditor General of Ontario, 2016

## Our change for the better

By increasing funding and ensuring there are enough staff, we'll allow hospitals to remove arbitrary annual caps that force surgery cancellations every year.

And the NDP will end the Liberal practice of underreporting wait times. With honest public reporting of the full wait time from start to finish, Ontarians will have — for the first time in years — a comprehensive picture of where waits are the longest.

We will lower waits by working collaboratively with surgeons to improve wait list flow strategies, including exploring recommendations from the Auditor General, to help significantly reduce wait times for patients and improve physicians' access to critical information.



**BETTER**  
long-term care

The sad truth is that seniors in too many long-term care homes haven't been getting the care they need or the attention they deserve. Residents are being left in bed for 18 hours at a time, and they face lengthy waits for help to bathe and change clothes – even to get to the bathroom. Workers in those long-term care homes are doing the best they can, but they're run off their feet.

Ontario's seniors deserve care that treats them with respect and dignity. And they deserve a government that will ensure they get it.

## Our changes for the better

- ➔ We will create 40,000 more long-term care beds, including 15,000 new beds over the next five years
- ➔ We will set standards to ensure each resident is offered a minimum of four hours of hands-on care per day
- ➔ We will hold a find-and-fix public inquiry into long-term care
- ➔ We will update the Long-Term Care *Residents' Bill of Rights* to give couples the right to stay together

# The care our parents deserve

**THERE ARE MORE** than 32,000 people waiting for a home in long-term care. The wait is years long, and that leaves some languishing in hospital beds and others living in a place where their safety isn't protected or their needs cared for.

And too often, long-term care homes themselves are failing to protect the dignity, health and even the safety of the people who live there.

## Our change for the better

We will build and fund **15,000 more long-term care beds** over the next five years — rising to **40,000 new beds by 2028**. Our investment will focus on expanding the not-for-profit and municipal sector, where funding goes to patient care instead of profit. This will include investment in culturally-appropriate care: offering

seniors greater access to care in their primary language, eating food they are familiar with, and engaging in activities they know and love.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will restore a legislated minimum standard of care for every long-term care resident in Ontario, and fund long-term care homes so they can meet it. That standard will require every long-term care home to give each resident a **minimum of four hours of hands-on care every day on average**. The Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors, (now AdvantAge Ontario) estimates this will cost \$257 million a year.

In our first 100 days in government, Andrea Horwath and the NDP will expand the mandate of the public **inquiry into long-term care** to find and fix the specific problems that

## Donna Coreywn Hamilton

My mother fractured her pelvis after a fall in her long-term care unit. I was shocked when she returned from the hospital and ended up stuck in an upright recliner at the nurse's station 24 hours per day because the home she was living in did not have enough staff to ensure her safety during recovery. I hired private duty care to keep my mother safe and comfortable — but the financial burden was enormous and it's not an option for many other families.

A four hour minimum standard would have made a big difference to my mother's recovery and the financial burden involved. Andrea has the best plan to help seniors in long-term care.



have been stripping seniors of their dignity. We'll hear directly from families about their experiences, and address solutions around:

- ➔ Safety of residents and staff
- ➔ Quality of care
- ➔ Funding
- ➔ Staffing levels and practices
- ➔ Regulation, enforcement and inspections
- ➔ Capacity, availability and accessibility in every region

- ➔ The impact of for-profit privatization on care
- ➔ Government action — and inaction — on past recommendations

We will **update Ontario's Long-Term Care Residents' Bill of Rights** to include the right of spouses not to be separated against their will. Couples who have spent their entire lives together should never be separated by a system that doesn't work for them.

**“We are impressed with the tremendous leadership the NDP has shown in advocating for a minimum care standard in Ontario’s legislature.”**

—Ontario Health Coalition





**HEALTHIER**  
communities

We can do more to deliver better health care and help everyone lead a healthier life – wherever they are.

## Our changes for the better

- ➔ We will eliminate the home care wait list and improve service
- ➔ We will invest \$30 million in community care and open 35 new Community Health Centres by 2025
- ➔ We will end front-line health care staff layoffs
- ➔ We will provide complete coverage for take-home cancer drugs
- ➔ We will add 360 midwives and guarantee no cuts or closures of women's health centres
- ➔ We will eliminate wait times for palliative and end-of-life care

# Home care: making it the best in Canada

- ➔ We will eliminate the home care wait list, and deliver consistent, high-quality care

**FOR MORE THAN** three-quarters of a million Ontarians, home care makes a world of difference. It's what lets them live at home, in their own community, with dignity and comfort.

But in Ontario today, home care is in bad shape. At least 4,500 Ontarians are stuck on wait lists for personal support services. Exhausted family caregivers are filling in the gaps. Seniors are waiting, and wondering when their home care worker will arrive — and whether it'll be the same worker they had last time. And many home care workers are doing their best in low-paying, unstable, insecure jobs that make it hard to provide great care.

One big reason: the Liberals' and Conservatives' heavy reliance on private, for-profit providers. It's estimated that at least \$80 million in public funding — and potentially far more — is paid every year into private profits, instead of delivering care.

We can build the best home care system in Canada, with the same high quality of care no matter how much money you have or where in Ontario you live.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **immediately increase home care funding by \$300 million**. This investment will allow us to:

- ➔ Eliminate wait lists for personal support services
- ➔ Increase service hours, so health-care providers have more time to spend with each person who needs care
- ➔ Remove arbitrary caps on care imposed by the Conservatives and left in place by the Liberals
- ➔ Offer more respite care for family caregivers
- ➔ Ensure more stable employment, better working conditions and higher wages for personal support workers
- ➔ Ensure consistent, reliable care throughout Ontario

We believe home care should be a key part of our public universal health care system. We will move toward more public and not-for-profit delivery of home care, so that funding for home care goes directly to better care instead of higher profits.



# Health care: non-profit and community-governed

- ➔ We will raise funding for community non-profit health centres by \$30 million — a 5% increase
- ➔ We will invest \$30 million in community care and open 35 new Community Health Centres by 2025
- ➔ We will create 70 new public dental clinics and seven new mobile dental buses

**MANY ONTARIANS FACE** barriers to care, from poverty and homelessness, to difficulty accessing a family doctor. Ontario's community-governed, not-for-profit health care organizations are dedicated to overcoming these barriers.

While they provide primary care and health programs for all Ontarians, they also focus on advocacy and service delivery for people living in poverty or without stable housing, First Nations and Indigenous people, Francophone communities, new immigrants and refugees, racialized peoples, seniors, and the uninsured.

Yet while demand has grown, the Liberals have frozen the base budgets for Community Health Centres since 2012. And the last time a government expanded them was well over a decade ago.

It's time to build on their success, and the success of similar Aboriginal Health Access Centres, Francophone *Centres de santé communautaire*, nurse-practitioner-led clinics and Community Family Health Teams.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will launch the **largest expansion of community-governed non-profit health care Ontario has ever seen**. We will increase the base funding for these centres by 5%, or \$30 million — and ensure that ongoing funding increases with inflation.

We will also **invest in new community-governed non-profit health centres** (as well as new satellite locations for existing centres) in the 35 regions that need them but don't yet have one. That includes fast-growing, underserved GTA communities like Mississauga, Brampton, York Region and Scarborough. Those new centres will all open by 2025, with a capital investment of \$42 million per year starting in 2020.

We will dedicate \$25 million in capital funding to support new and expanded dental clinics in Community Health Centres, Aboriginal Health Access Centres and local public health units. **This funding can support seven mobile dental buses to serve remote and rural communities, and 70 new dental clinics.**

# Respect for health care workers

- ➔ We will end front-line staff layoffs
- ➔ We will deliver a plan to end workplace violence against health care workers
- ➔ We will ensure presumptive PTSD coverage for front-line health care workers

**IT'S HARD TO** deliver services when you have fewer caregivers and professionals to do the job. The Conservatives handed pink slips to 6,000 nurses. Kathleen Wynne's frozen hospital funding led to more than 1,600 nursing jobs cut since 2015. We can do better in Ontario.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will put a moratorium on layoffs for front-line health care workers. And we'll work with partners and stakeholders to set the right staffing levels for hospitals, so they can deliver quality care to every patient.

We will work with health care partners to take action to stop the violence that health care workers too often face on the job.



And we will pass legislation to extend presumptive coverage for post-traumatic stress disorder to all front-line health care workers — so they won't have to prove their condition was caused by their work as first responders in our emergency departments and other health care settings.

# Protecting local hospitals and rural health care

- ➔ Our new funding plan will meet or exceed inflation, population growth, aging and the unique needs of each community

**LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE** governments have cut local hospitals and the services they deliver for years.

They don't seem to understand that when the blue H sign comes down and the lights go out at a community hospital, part of the community goes with it.

We believe that communities throughout Ontario, especially rural communities, deserve to be able to count on local hospitals.

They keep people and communities healthy.

### **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will protect local hospitals by addressing the funding crunch that has threatened them in the past. We will restore hospital funding and ensure annual funding keeps pace with inflation, population growth, aging, and the unique needs of our communities — including rural and remote locations.

## **Cancer care: better treatment and better choices for patients**

### **➔ We will cover take-home cancer drugs**

**MORE ONTARIANS ARE** living with cancer than ever before, with an estimated 86,000 new diagnoses each year. The good news is that therapies and outcomes are improving every day. And while cancer is still the leading cause of death in Ontario, the chances of survival are increasing with every new medical advancement.

But too often, we aren't making the most of those advances. For example, innovative new therapies allow cancer patients to take medication orally at home, instead of having to visit the hospital for lengthy IV treatments. But unlike those in-hospital IV treatments, the cost of the oral medication isn't covered.

That has to change. Every patient battling cancer deserves to know their government is completely behind them in their fight.

### **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **publicly fund take-home cancer medication**. And we will **remove the stressful application barriers** and delays for drug coverage that have plagued the Trillium Drug Program.

We will work with Cancer Care Ontario, health care professionals, hospitals, and the Canadian Cancer Society, among others, to improve cancer care for all Ontarians and help families navigate the cancer-care system.

Our investment in Ontario hospitals will help to reduce wait times for biopsies, MRIs, and CT scans. The earlier diagnoses will allow more timely treatment, improving patients' chances of survival and recovery — and avoiding the costs of treating more advanced cancers.

We will reduce regional disparities in access to cancer treatment. No matter where they live, every cancer patient deserves access to the urgent care they need, as close to home as possible.

We will increase access to supports for patients and their families, including psychosocial support, symptom-management support and education about take-home cancer drugs.

We'll address the worrisome lack of oversight and patient protection when it comes to cancer drug therapy at private clinics.

And we will develop a provincial strategy for urgently expanding Ontario's capacity for stem-cell transplants by the third year of our mandate, including streamlining and expediting capital projects.

## A new moms guarantee

- ➔ We will add 360 new midwives
- ➔ We will protect local delivery rooms and neonatal care from further cuts or closures

**NEW DEMOCRATS ARE** proud of pioneering access to midwifery care, giving expectant mothers a new choice for care throughout their pregnancy and following their child's birth. In 1994, we enshrined midwives' status as a regulated health profession. Today, more than 900 midwives serve 90 clinics and thousands of families across Ontario.

We want Ontario to build on that success, so that every mother who wants a midwife throughout and after her pregnancy has that option.

### Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will support more than 360 new midwives who want to join the profession over the next four years, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis midwives, as well as midwives from northern and remote communities who want to bring their expertise to their home communities.



We will promote pay equity for women by respecting the decision of the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal regarding gender-based pay discrimination that midwives have

experienced under both Conservative and Liberal governments.

And we'll create a New Moms Guarantee, protecting maternal and newborn care services

in Ontario's communities; preventing cuts and closures to women's health facilities, and expanding access to midwifery care and maternal health services.

## Compassionate end-of-life care

➔ We will eliminate the wait times for palliative care

**THE LAST THING** a family should be worried about in a loved one's final days is whether they can afford palliative care, or how to navigate a complex system to get it. Yet too often, that's exactly what they face.

Dan Duma, a Windsor autoworker who moved to Alberta for work, received a diagnosis of terminal liver cancer. He and his wife wanted to move home with their daughters for palliative care — but the Ontario government told him he had to wait three months for any care at all. A hospice was finally able to take him in, but Dan's hopes of spending his last days at home were dashed. He died a month into the waiting period.

Let's not let that happen again.

### Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work to build the compassionate palliative care system that Ontario needs — starting by passing Dan's Law. Named in Dan Duma's memory, this legislation will eliminate the three-month wait for home and palliative care.

We will improve palliative care by continuing previously-committed investments of **\$75 million over three years**, as well as continuing the additional investment of **\$15 million in 2018-19, to increase access to hospices** across the province and ensure families have better access to community-based palliative care.

And we will respect the right of Ontarians to medical assistance in dying, ensuring that every Ontarian has access to compassionate, quality end-of-life care.

## Health equity and access to care

**HEALTH CARE IS** a human right. Evidence shows that poverty, ableism, systemic racism, homophobia and transphobia can impact our health. And many people who live in Ontario face barriers to care, including a lack of access

to provincial health insurance due to their immigration status. The cost of accessing uninsured health services means that people in pain cannot get the urgent care they need. They also face fear and discrimination that

makes it even harder to seek the services that they need. As people delay care, their conditions can worsen, putting their lives at risk.

Community Health Centres and volunteer-based clinics for the uninsured do the very best they can to navigate a system that excludes too many people from accessing urgent health care. New Democrats strongly support the efforts of these volunteers and health care professionals to save lives — and to fill the gaps in a system that leaves too many people without health care they need.

In a province that welcomes people from every corner of the world, we need to make sure that no one is denied access to urgent health care — no matter who they are or where they're from.

## Our change for the better

- ➔ We will work with partners across Ontario to promote greater health equity
- ➔ We will protect and increase access to health care services in French
- ➔ We will work with Ontario's First Nations to increase First Nations' role in decision-making and providing front-line care
- ➔ And an NDP government will ensure that everyone who lives in Ontario can visit an emergency room for health care needs — without having to pay for it. Following the example of the European Union, we will ensure every resident has emergency room access and care regardless of their immigration or insurance status. We will also work with advocates to look at additional steps to improve access to care, no matter who you are

# Better health care for the LGBTQIA2S+ community

- ➔ We will ensure LGBTQIA2S+ communities have access to affirmative and inclusive health care
- ➔ We will fully cover the costs of transition drugs
- ➔ We will improve access to primary and secondary procedures in Ontario

**IT HAS TAKEN** relentless advocacy and unbearably long waits, but Ontario has made important progress in broadening access to LGBTQIA2S+-friendly health care services.

Trans Ontarians had one of the toughest fights, but they convinced the government to recognize the medical needs of trans

Ontarians through expanding access to referrals for transition-related surgeries and gender-confirming surgeries, and covering these procedures under OHIP.

Yet people seeking these procedures still have an uphill battle: barriers to care, the need to travel outside the province for necessary

procedures, and the possible need for procedures that are not covered by OHIP.

Members of the LGBTQIA2S+ communities shouldn't have to fight for these things. Access to the care you need, delivered in a respectful way, should be something every Ontarian can expect from our government.

### **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work with advocates and health care providers to reduce barriers to care and improve access to transition-related surgeries and gender-confirming surgeries, provided here in Ontario. And we will ensure that health care decisions respect the internationally-accepted standards of care established by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH).

We will also ensure the necessary medications are accessible to everyone who needs them. **We will fully cover the cost of all transition drugs and medications.**

Our pharmacare plan will improve access to other essential medicines, including medic-

ations required to treat and prevent HIV. It is based on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, **which includes pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications** for the purposes of preventing HIV. As the Committee to Evaluate Drugs works to determine the initial list of essential medicines in Ontario, we will ensure the needs of the LGBTQIA2S+ communities are fully reflected.

We will ensure greater and more meaningful involvement of people living with HIV in every government decision that impacts people living with and at risk of HIV, in line with the principle of "nothing about us without us".

As we improve seniors care for all Ontarians, we recognize that LGBTQIA2S+ people need long-term care that is fully affirming and inclusive. Moving into long-term care should never mean having to move back into the closet. We will work with the LGBTQIA2S+ community to support every effort to make long-term care homes across Ontario more inclusive and more affirmative spaces — where people can always live with pride.



**OVERHAULING**  
mental health and  
addictions services



# A dedicated Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

- ➔ We will establish a new, dedicated Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
- ➔ We will ensure access to mental health care for more than 28,000 more Ontarians every year by hiring 2,200 new mental health care workers
- ➔ We will build 30,000 new supportive housing units
- ➔ We will cut children's mental health waits to a 30-day max with a \$590 million investment
- ➔ We will hire 400 more mental health care workers, in order to provide mental health supports in every high school
- ➔ We will invest \$100 million in Ontario's Dementia Strategy

**TODAY, 11 MINISTRIES** across government deliver a patchwork of programs and services for mental health and addictions. The result is predictable and damaging: a confusing, hard-to-navigate system with far too many cracks for people to fall into.

It has been eight years since the legislature's Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions recommended urgent changes to the way we approach those issues. But the Liberal government has ignored most of those recommendations.

There's a critical shortage of the supportive housing that lets people dealing with mental health challenges live independently while getting the supports they need. And wait lists for mental health services are outrageously long. An estimated 12,000 children are waiting for mental health care.

Today there are 63% more children in the ER for mental health issues than there were in 2006, and 67% more hospitalizations. Tragically, suicide is now the second-leading cause of death for children between ages 10 and 24.

We have to do better, and we can. Instead of tinkering with a broken system, let's transform mental health care for the better.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP government will establish a dedicated Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. It will have one job: coordinating and building the integrated mental health and addictions services that Ontario needs, delivered close to home, consistently and comprehensively across the province.

We will update and implement the outstanding recommendations of the Select Committee. And based on the Auditor General's 2016 recommendations, we will:

- Start measuring and publicly reporting wait times
- Develop an overall strategy to reduce wait times, including setting wait time targets
- Set a timetable for developing mental health standards
- Explore the need for new dedicated mental health emergency departments

We will ensure that when people need help, it will be there for them. **We will hire 2,200 new mental health care workers** (including counsellors, social workers, case managers, system navigators and assertive community treatment staff), allowing **28,000 more Ontarians to access the services they need every year** including services ranging from psychotherapy to help in navigating complex systems of care.

We will also **hire 400 new mental health workers to ensure every high school has access to mental health supports**, funded through the elimination of EQAO.

We will invest in **30,000 new supportive housing units** over the next 10 years, building at least 3,000 every year — the number recommended by the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council — and funding ongoing rent supplements and support staff costs. We will invest \$228 million per year in capital funding, plus operational funding that increases by \$50 million per year.

We will **increase supports for the more than 190,000 Ontarians living with dementia**, and for their families and caregivers. An NDP government will **continue the \$100 million in Ontario's Dementia Strategy** over three years. These investments will continue to expand community dementia programs, respite care services, and crucial programs to help patients and families navigate dementia care and access the services that they need.

Most urgently, we will make the investments needed to ensure that any young person in crisis can get the care they need. We will invest **\$590 million over five years to expand services and increase staff**. Based on recommendations by Children's Mental Health Ontario, we believe this will ensure every child gets care within 30 days.

## Noah Irvine Guelph

I know that a Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions is the right thing to do to help people like my parents, who suffered from mental illness. We need to make mental health and addictions a real priority. Seven years ago, an all-party select committee made important recommendations to improve mental health services. We can't wait any longer for action to improve mental health and addictions services.



# Fighting the opioid emergency

- ➔ We will declare a public health emergency
- ➔ We will distribute more naloxone kits

**THE OPIOID OVERDOSE** emergency has now touched every community in Ontario. Deaths from drugs like fentanyl have cast a shadow on thousands of families.

There's no question that the crisis has exacted an especially heavy toll on marginalized and vulnerable communities. For people living in poverty, who don't have stable housing, or who are coping with the legacy of colonialism and the pain of systemic racism, there's a much higher risk of dying.

This emergency is unlike any Ontario has seen before, and that means addressing it in new, often unconventional ways. And it means addressing it with a sense of real urgency. Every day of inaction can cost lives.

## Our change for the better

**Andrea Horwath and the NDP will declare a public health emergency**, recognizing the scope and seriousness of the crisis and mobilizing resources across the province.

We will focus most urgently on harm reduction, to save lives now. We will **expand the**

**distribution of Naloxone** and other anti-overdose medications, and support the establishment and operation of supervised injection sites and overdose prevention sites wherever they are needed. And we will listen to front-line harm reduction workers and people with lived experience because they are the experts — and the heroes who are saving lives every day.

Our investment in **30,000 new supportive housing units** will help people who are ready to begin recovering, helping them rebuild their lives in a safe, stable home with the services and supports they need.

We will work with police services across the province, ensuring they have the resources to pursue traffickers and high-level dealers, while recognizing addiction and treating addicts with dignity.

And we will work with the Opioid Emergency Task Force to provide evidence-based strategies to save lives and fight addiction.



**BETTER  
SCHOOLS**  
better education

Education plays a huge role in shaping our opportunities. We're committed to making sure a quality education is within everyone's reach.

But Liberal and Conservative governments have undermined the quality of education and put barriers in front of students. Crowded classrooms, inadequate support for kids with special needs, rigid testing and chronic underfunding have all made it harder for our kids to learn.

And spiralling tuition fees saddle post-secondary students with huge debt loads.

We can do better in Ontario. A quality education should be a natural part of growing up in our province.

## Our changes for the better

- We will re-write the education funding formula
- We will hire more teachers and educational assistants
- We will cap kindergarten classroom sizes at 26 students
- We will invest \$16 billion to repair crumbling schools
- We will end EQAO testing
- We will fix the rules around education development charges so they can fund the new schools families need
- We will ensure schools teach inclusive history, including Indigenous history, the history of Black Ontarians, our province's history with the Underground Railroad, and Caribbean and African experiences

# Fixing our public schools

**TOO MANY KIDS** are going to school in buildings without proper heat or cooling, with leaky roofs or stairways overdue for repair. After years of Conservative and Liberal governments neglecting schools, the backlog of needed repairs has reached \$15 billion.

But the problems go a lot deeper. Ontario funds public education based on a system developed by former Conservative premier Mike Harris. He didn't believe in strengthening public education — and the funding formula reflects that.

And years more of cuts and freezes by the Liberals and Conservatives have forced school boards to use special-education money just to keep schools safe and functioning. Children with special needs often have to cope with limited resources and years of being shuffled between wait lists.

Chronic underfunding has also led to increased classroom violence, putting teachers, students and education workers at risk.

With kindergarten classrooms having no cap on class size (just a limit on the “average class size” across the entire school board), those classes are sometimes huge — and often understaffed. Some classrooms have 30 children; others have no teaching assistants.

Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) testing has meant teachers and students spend far too much time preparing for a single test, instead of learning material more deeply.

The underfunding has been widespread enough that, since 2011, the Liberal government has closed 270 schools and put another 300 schools on the chopping block — schools that were an essential part of their communities.

We need a provincial government that understands the real value of a school — and of the rich, rewarding education that a well-funded public school classroom can offer to our kids.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will fund schools properly.

We will work with parents, front-line educators, students, and educational experts to overhaul the education funding formula starting with a comprehensive public review based on two key principles: **equity and quality**.

**A new funding formula will address violence in classrooms**, and will mean boards, teachers, and education workers have the resources they need to ensure the well-being and safety of all learners, and all educators.

It will allow us to **curb class sizes** and support our most vulnerable students, an important step in making classroom environments safer and more conducive to learning.

The first-hand experience of parents, teachers and education workers will play a major role in shaping the new model, and we will take into account factors that affect rural and remote schools, such as school transportation. School boards will be receiving funding under the

fully-implemented new formula within our first term.

**We will base special education funding on actual needs, not overall populations,** with timely needs assessments. This will mean overall funding increases for students with special educational needs, helping schools, teachers, paraprofessionals and education

assistants give these children the support they need.

We will build on Ontario's Provincial and Demonstration schools' track record of success, especially in helping students who are deaf, blind or deaf-blind, and students with severe learning disabilities who need greater support. And we will lift the cap on classes.



To make sure kindergarten students get the attention they need, we will put a class-size cap on each classroom — not an average cap that allows some classes to be dramatically overcrowded. **We will cap kindergarten classrooms at 26 children and we will end Kindergarten / Grade 1 split classrooms.** We will develop options for more Early Childhood Educators in full-day kindergarten classrooms.

**Our 10-year capital plan for schools will specifically address the repair backlog in Ontario's schools.** And **we'll fix the rules around Education Development Charges** — payments developers make when they build new homes or condos — so they can be used to fund new schools.

**We will end EQAO tests** (the standardized tests every Ontario student is required to take). Working collaboratively with educators, we'll determine how random sampling could support spotting early trends and deciding where we should focus on improvement, without driving teachers to “teach to the test.” That way we can leave individual assessment to the teachers' professional judgement — they know their students best. We estimate

this will save \$40 million, which we will reinvest in the classroom.

We will continue the **long-overdue curriculum update** currently underway, and pay particular attention to career counselling for a changing workplace, as well as financial literacy and mathematics.

We will ensure history education includes the full, rich story of Indigenous peoples, the lasting impacts of colonialism and residential schools, and the need for reconciliation.

We will work with Black communities, historians and educators to incorporate teaching about the history of Black Ontarians, our province's history with the Underground Railroad, and Caribbean and African experiences.

Andrea Horwath will put a **moratorium on school closures** until the provincial funding formula is fixed.

We'll work with local boards to continue to develop schools as community hubs where everyone can access great public programming and use these facilities.



# Better post-secondary education

- ➔ From now on, every student who qualifies for OSAP will get a non-repayable grant instead of a loan
- ➔ We will wipe out any student loan interest owed or paid to the province by any student or past student who still holds a provincial loan
- ➔ A new faculty renewal strategy will convert contractors to full-time professors
- ➔ We will open the Franco-Ontarian university
- ➔ We will foster 27,000 new work-integrated-learning opportunities like co-ops or paid internships for students

**FOR MANY, POST-SECONDARY** education is out of reach. For every step to make it a little more affordable, years of tuition hikes have priced college and university outside the budgets of many Ontarians. And many can only pay for their education by taking on a huge debt burden — a debt that weighs people down as they start their adult lives.

And years of cuts and budget freezes have chipped away at quality and access. Cancelled courses and deteriorating facilities are the most visible results. And more and more

often, full-time instructional positions have become precarious part-time, contract and sessional jobs.

Our colleges and universities are research hubs and future-builders — we need to help people go to college and university in Ontario, and graduate without crushing debt.

It's time we had a government at Queen's Park that understands that, and makes getting quality post-secondary education easier, not harder.

## Dinojah Patkunarajah Toronto

Andrea's plan to make college and university more affordable gives students hope again. Converting loans to grants and retroactively removing interest from loans that people already have will help new students and people who have already finished school. I'm excited about the NDP plan and I know that Andrea will always have my back.



## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will address affordability head-on with a game-changing initiative: **provincial loans for all new post-secondary students will become grants.** Every student whose family is eligible for the Ontario Student Assistance Plan will graduate free of any debt to the province.

We will **retroactively forgive all interest** for everyone carrying provincial student loan debts.

And graduates who have been harassed and threatened by private debt collectors for student loans can breathe easier. **The province will no longer hire private debt collection services.**

We'll end the financial choke-hold on colleges and universities by lifting the budget freeze. And we'll make sure funding keeps up, so

post-secondary institutions can offer the choices and quality of instruction Ontario students deserve.

We'll launch a faculty renewal strategy to allow contract educators to become full-time professors and instructors, and **invest in more tenure-track faculty positions.** That will help ensure students can learn from professors and educators who are there for the long term — who they can seek out to take more classes, or reach for letters of recommendation. And it will help Ontario attract the best academic talent the world has to offer.

Finally, we will **welcome the first students to the Franco-Ontarian university.** New Democrats have led the fight to establish a province-wide university where students can earn a degree studying in French. The francophone community has waited long enough.



### Nicholas Lebel Hearst

It's really exciting to be able to study in my mother tongue and in my own province. Francophones and Francophiles have been campaigning for the francophone university for a long time, and I am really happy that they have made a commitment to make this dream a reality for people like me. Thank you to everyone involved for recognizing that Franco-Ontarians have the right to learn in their own language.

C'est vraiment excitant de pouvoir étudier dans ma langue maternelle et dans ma propre province. Les francophones et francophiles militent pour l'université francophone depuis longtemps, et je suis vraiment heureux qu'ils se soient engagés à faire de ce rêve une réalité pour les gens comme moi. Merci, à tous et toutes impliqué d'avoir reconnu que les Franco-Ontariennes et les Franco-Ontariens ont le droit d'apprendre dans leur propre langue.

# 27,000 new job opportunities for students

**NOTHING CAN CHANGE** someone's life the way a good job does. And making sure there are great opportunities across Ontario is our most important economic priority. From making sure young people get a solid start in the job market, to making investments that help build communities while putting people to work, to getting the best job-creating results from provincial spending, there's a lot we can do to secure more good jobs for Ontarians.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **create 27,000 new placements for young people** to get real-life work experience while in their

post-secondary education: paid co-op and internship opportunities that allow students to graduate with real-world experience.

We will build on the federal Student Work-Integrated Learning Program, expanding it beyond science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to include other fields.

Through the Jobs and Prosperity Fund, we will **double Ontario's Career Kick-Start program** so Ontario's colleges and universities can create new work-integrated learning opportunities.





**MORE  
AFFORDABILITY**  
so everyone can build  
their best life here  
in Ontario

To many Ontarians, 20 years of switching between the Liberals and Conservatives has only made life less affordable.

It's harder to make ends meet, harder to pay the bills, and harder to get ahead.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP know there's a lot government can do to make life more affordable.

## **Our changes for the better.**

- We will cut hydro bills by 30% and put Hydro One back in public hands
- We will build 65,000 new affordable homes
- We will overhaul the Inclusionary Zoning regulations
- We will crack down on housing speculators, including domestic speculators
- We will ban "pink taxes"
- We will achieve a 15% discount on auto insurance, and end neighbourhood discrimination
- We will allow seniors to defer property taxes until they sell their home

# Cutting Hydro bills by 30% for everyone

You can find the full plan at [ontariondp.ca/hydro](http://ontariondp.ca/hydro)

**KATHLEEN WYNNE AND** the Liberals let Ontarians down badly.

They sure didn't run in the last election on a plan to sell off Hydro One, privatize the electrical grid and sell off a valuable public asset.

But that's exactly what Kathleen Wynne did as soon as she was elected, ignoring warnings from independent experts and protests from Ontarians.

As a result, families across the province have seen their Hydro bills skyrocket.

Kathleen Wynne's Liberals got us here, and Ontarians can't count on the Conservatives to get us out; they're the province's biggest privatization fans. We need a government that's truly committed to more affordable costs and reliable service.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP have released a detailed plan to cut your Hydro bills by 30%. We will:

- ➔ Return Hydro One to public hands
- ➔ Reduce bills immediately
- ➔ End mandatory time-of-day pricing
- ➔ Make permanent fixes to the system for the long term

Returning Hydro One to public ownership will help it serve the public interest again. Re-establishing independent, transparent public oversight will make sure of it.

Our plan for immediate cost reduction includes steps like getting rid of mandatory time-of-use charges that do nothing for conservation, capping private profit margins, ensuring rural users pay the same delivery costs as urban users and exempting First Nations communities from electricity delivery charges.

## Kala Navamanikkam Scarborough

I'm 63 years old and I live in Scarborough. And with my hydro bills skyrocketing month-to-month, I struggle to afford the hydro it takes to keep my family comfortable in our home.

The sell-off of Hydro One has meant that my hydro bills have gotten out of control. Andrea's plan to bring Hydro One back into public hands and bring hydro bills down by 30% is music to my ears.



And our long-term fix includes **ending oversupply**, where we pay for electricity nobody needs, and cancelling or renegotiating bad private contracts, or letting them expire.

We will cancel the Liberals' borrowing scheme that adds billions in new debt to finance short-term bill reductions. It was a desperate move, and completely unsustainable. Our plan lowers hydro rates by getting private profits

off your bill and lowering the actual costs of electricity, instead of taking out a loan to artificially reduce bills prior to an election.

**We will double the support for low-income families** who heat with electricity by doubling the Ontario Electricity Support Program's benefit. We will fund this from general revenues and not hydro's rate base, so it doesn't increase bills.

## Affordable housing

**A HOME YOU** love is a foundation for a good life. It should be affordable, in an area with the services you need, warm, safe and it should feel like home. And at its most basic level, housing is a human right.

But for families throughout much of Ontario, owning a home they can afford remains a dream, while renting is painfully expensive. While Conservatives and Liberals sat idle, housing costs spiralled out of control, speculators made fortunes, and too many families had to put their hopes on hold.

Our goal will be to ensure every Ontarian can access safe, affordable housing. Whether a family wants to rent or own; live in a house, an apartment, a condominium or a co-op, they should have affordable options.

### **Our change for the better**

We will keep the affordable housing we already have. Andrea Horwath and the NDP have committed to **funding the province's one-third share of repairing social housing** across Ontario, with the municipal and fed-

eral governments contributing their one-third shares as well.

We will **build new affordable homes — 65,000 of them** over the next decade. Andrea Horwath will sign on to the federal National Housing Strategy, which will fund the construction of about 20,000 units, including non-profit and co-op housing. Our 10-year capital plan will make additional investments to build the remaining 45,000 units. And we will provide the co-op housing sector with **\$3 million to seed co-op bid development**.

We will maintain rent-geared-to-income and rent supplements.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **overhaul the government's inclusionary zoning regulations**, so they actually accomplish what they set out to do: require a certain number of affordable homes in new housing developments. That will include increasing the percentage of affordable homes required and bringing rental properties under the regulations.

We will encourage **an array of options for housing**. That includes affordable, neighbourhood-oriented homes including mid-rises, townhouses and stacked townhouses that sell for dramatically less than the cost of a detached home. We'll use such measures as requiring a minimum density in developments along new transit lines, letting municipalities opt out of some minimum parking requirements, and requiring coordinated planning of retail and housing in medium-density developments. And, working with municipalities, we'll create a new *Residents' Rights Act* so homeowners can add legal apartments, laneway houses and 'granny flats' to their properties.

We will **crack down on housing speculators** who are driving up housing costs. We will apply the Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST) anywhere speculation is overheating a housing market.

The **Housing Speculation Tax** will put a surtax on foreign and domestic speculators who don't pay taxes in Ontario. Non-Ontario residents who own homes in regions where Ontario's NRST currently applies will see a new annual tax of \$5 per \$1,000 of assessed value, rising to \$20 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2019, matching British Columbia's schedule.





We will work with the federal government, other provinces and experts, and reinvest the funds these taxes raise in affordable housing.

And we will join British Columbia's call for a multi-agency working group tasked with stopping housing from being used for tax evasion, fraud and money laundering.

We will **protect homebuyers from shoddy construction and unfair financial risk** by reforming the Tarion Warranty Corporation. We will ensure, once and for all, that Ontario's new home warranty system and regulator answer to home buyers and the public, not to private interests.

We will **make rentals more affordable** by introducing legislation to provide:

- ➔ Effective, reasonable, predictable rent controls that limit the use of above-guideline increases to "renovict" people from their homes

- ➔ A rent registry, so tenants can know how much a landlord has charged in the past
- ➔ Protection for renters who pay their rent and abide by their agreements
- ➔ Updated rules that recognize changing rental markets
- ➔ Guarantees that rents will remain affordable in the long term, while spurring investments in new, purpose-built rental buildings

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will protect condominium buyers from surprise fees and other issues. We will ensure that:

- ➔ Disputes can be resolved quickly, without long, expensive court battles
- ➔ Owners can expect transparency and accountability from condo boards
- ➔ Advertising materials reflect realistic costs and fees
- ➔ Owners have protection from shoddy or incompetent construction

## Stronger protections for consumers

**YOU DESERVE A** government that's in your corner when someone's abusing your trust, whether it's a company or a con artist.

### Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will stand up for consumers with tough enforcement of the rules against predatory, high-pressure door-to-door sales. And as problem sectors pop up, we'll expand the regulations to cover them.

We will fight "pink taxes," where manufacturers and retailers charge women more than men for similar products and services.

An NDP government will bring stability and transparency to gas prices, based on legislation put forward in NDP Private Member's Bills.

We will work with the federal government to ensure Ontarians can choose from fairly priced mobile, internet and cable services;

that service providers promote them transparently; and consumers can end agreements without punishment.

Andrea Horwath will continue our fight against predatory payday lenders who charge loan interest that reaches hundreds of per cents annually. We will fix the law to limit costs to \$15 per \$100 inclusive of all fees, the same as Alberta, and match Alberta's 60-day repayment extension. We will increase regulation and monitoring, enforcing the ban on rollover loans and company-to-company rollovers.

We will **end neighbourhood discrimination in auto insurance** — where people with postal codes in poorer neighbourhoods end up paying more for their coverage. Your premiums will be based on your car and how you drive, not where you live.

The Liberal government agreed in 2013 to an NDP demand to reduce auto insurance rates by 15%. But they reneged, and have allowed rates to steadily increase ever since. **We will bring insurance premiums down by 15%** — and we will look beyond the current system if insurance providers do not provide the savings people deserve.

## Pensions

**A GOOD PENSION** is important to a happy retirement. New Democrats believe in helping more people access a good workplace pension.

A defined-benefit pension plan lets you rely on the amount of your pension cheque. In addition to providing greater retirement income security for more people, expanding defined-benefit public sector pension plans will keep those plans sustainable for the long term.

### **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **increase the Pension Benefit Guarantee Fund guaranteed**

**amount to \$3,000 per month** indexed to inflation, and will make the current benefit retroactive for Sears pensioners.

We will expand pension coverage to more Ontarians by reducing barriers for workers to join existing public Jointly Sponsored Pension Plans so more people can have a defined-benefit pension.

And we will push the federal government for greater protection of pensions during insolvency.

# Helping seniors afford to keep their homes

**TOO MANY SENIORS** are forced to move out of their homes to less expensive ones — often far from their community and the life they've built there: friends, family, religious and cultural communities.

Seniors have worked hard and built our province. They deserve a government that respects their contribution, and will work to help them be able to live in their own homes, and their own communities.

## **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will allow seniors who own their home to **defer property taxes** until their house is sold. No senior should ever need to sell their home to pay their property taxes.

The province will finance the deferral, so municipalities don't see their tax bases reduced. Evidence from a similar program in British Columbia shows that seniors will maintain substantial equity in their homes, ensuring that they can pass something along to their kids and grandkids.





**THE SAFE,  
HEALTHY**  
province we  
deserve

We love our communities. And we know that they thrive best in safety and security.

That means freedom from the fear of crime and violence. A justice system that gives us confidence. Renewed trust in the police forces that protect us. Streets that are safe to drive. And protection for the quality of our air and water.

# A justice system that inspires trust

- ➔ We will expand Mobile Crisis teams that pair police with mental health professionals
- ➔ We will ban carding
- ➔ We will promote police training on systemic racism
- ➔ We will reverse the Liberal plan to privatize parts of police forces
- ➔ We will work to clear up the backlog in the courts
- ➔ We will end the dangerous understaffing in correctional facilities

**NEW DEMOCRATS BELIEVE** our justice system should focus on keeping people safe, and on fighting crime by addressing its causes. And we believe those involved at every step along the way — law enforcement, courts and corrections — should have the resources and guidance they need to do the job.

## Law enforcement

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will ensure Ontario's provincial, municipal, and First Nations police services have the training, tools, and resources they need to keep the public safe and build lasting trust with the communities they serve. That includes emphasizing community policing, transparency and accountability, and recognizing the new realities of modern law enforcement.

One of those realities is that encounters between individuals facing a mental health crisis and the police are increasing in frequency. Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Teams — pairing police officers with mental

health workers — have a proven record of success, and we will expand them with a **new dedicated A Crisis Is Not A Crime fund**, which will provide \$5 million annually for mobile crisis teams.

We will increase funding for cold-case investigations, including missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, to help their families find closure — and to bring violent criminals to justice.

We will ban carding. Progress on halting this unjust practice to date has left big loopholes — and we are going to close them. The practice is wrong, and nobody in Ontario should be stopped without cause.

We will continue our support for police training on human rights and systemic racism, and ensure police receive regular, up-to-the-minute training on changes to the law (and how our courts interpret it) in those areas.

We will **make the enforcement of laws against gender-based violence a priority**. When survivors of sexual assaults and other gender-based violence report those crimes, we will require police to investigate them.

We believe public policing should never be a for-profit endeavour. We will **repeal laws passed by Liberals and Conservatives that allow the privatization of policing**.

## Courts

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work to clear the backlog clogging our courts.

Some of the backlog comes from prosecuting people for bail violations. We will work with the Ontario Law Reform Commission to find ways to deal with otherwise non-criminal violation of bail conditions — taking them seriously, but without tying up court resources — and to deliver a long-overdue modernization of bail rules and operations.

We will modernize court operations across Ontario. We'll make sure court time is used efficiently, records are accessible, and contemporary technology like email and video can be used in courts — so outdated technology isn't hampering modern-day justice. And we will make sure Ontario does its part to ensure juries are truly representative.

## Corrections system

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **end the dangerous understaffing of Ontario's correctional facilities**, and make sure they have the equipment they need to keep people safe. We will continue with planned hiring of correctional officers.

We will work quickly to end the practice of punitive solitary confinement, as in the case of inmate Adam Capay who spent nearly four years in isolation.

We will end the practice of holding immigration detainees in provincial correctional facilities. They are already overcrowded and stretched thin.

We will investigate the best way to offer addiction and mental health services in provincial jails, consistent with the recommendations of the Independent Advisor on Corrections Reform, in consultation with front-line staff and health professionals.

We will invest \$15 million to hire **300 more probation and parole officers** to reinforce public confidence and ensure community corrections are stable for people in the system.

# Helping everyone get home safe

- ➔ We will bring highway and road maintenance back into the public service
- ➔ We will put life-saving automatic defibrillators in community spaces
- ➔ We will continue to improve concussion protocols in amateur sports



**GOOD THINGS HAPPEN** when our streets and communities are safer, and they aren't just the accidents we avoid. Our neighbourhoods are more vibrant, people are happier and businesses are more prosperous. Safety is one of the provincial government's most important responsibilities.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **bring winter road maintenance and inspections back to the public sector** as each contract expires. The provincial auditor has found private operators cut corners by using too few plows, skimping on salt and de-icer, and sometimes even keeping the plows inside to save money and boost profits. It's time that ended. We will end the government's practice of putting drivers at risk by failing to enforce contracts and collect fines. With long-term contracts, **we will publish infractions and**

**fines, and collect on them.** Bad contractors will have their contracts terminated.

We will follow Manitoba's example, and require automatic defibrillators to be located in public places like large businesses, apartment buildings, arenas, and community centres in central, easy-access locations in remote areas. Defibrillators will be registered in a central directory so 9-1-1 personnel can direct callers to find and operate devices, and ensure first responders can use them.

We will work with amateur athletes and athletic associations to keep amateur sports safe and ensure safety protocols follow the best available science. Andrea Horwath will establish a **biennial review and consultation on safety in amateur sport focused on injury — especially brain injury — prevention,** and quick returns to play, work or school.



# Protecting our environment and taking action on climate

- ➔ 25% of cap-and-trade revenues will go to support lower-income, rural, and northern households, and trade-exposed industries
- ➔ We will introduce a new \$50 million no-interest and on-bill home retrofit program to help people consume less power at home
- ➔ We will update the *Environmental Bill of Rights*
- ➔ We will clean up the mercury in the English–Wabigoon River system

**ONTARIANS ARE PROUD** of our natural heritage. And we know our well-being — economic, social and physical — relies on the health of our environment. The NDP has long been a strong voice for both environmental sustainability and fairness. We believe the transition to a green, low-carbon economy must be a fair one, so we don't leave communities behind, and so all of us can realize the benefits.

## Our change for the better

Renewables such as solar, water, and wind will be at the heart of the electricity system and we will integrate them responsibly as needs grow. We will respect local decision-making and ensure that local communities have a stake in the benefits that come from low-cost, zero-emission renewables.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP believe polluters should pay for the emissions they release, and we will continue with pricing carbon through a fair, effective and transparent cap-and-trade market. At least 25% of the revenues from cap-and-trade will support communities and individuals who today are carrying more

than their fair share of the burden — such as northern, rural, and low-income Ontarians — and assist trade-exposed industries.

We will set clear greenhouse gas reduction targets that we can and will meet.

We will **dedicate \$50 million in cap-and-trade revenues to seed the creation of a new no-interest/on-bill home-efficiency retrofit program**, allowing residents to install energy-conserving technologies and improve the energy efficiency of their home. We will target the program to communities and individuals facing the greatest financial barriers to lowering their energy use.

We will work to ensure all municipalities have active transportation plans — strategies for promoting walking, cycling, and other human-propelled transportation, by 2021.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will protect more of Ontario's wild spaces, by **expanding existing parks and creating new ones** in consultation with First Nations. We will end the loss of provincially significant wetlands,

which are crucial in preventing and limiting floods, and begin to reverse it.

We will set achievable but aggressive targets to reduce air and water pollution across the province. We will move ahead with studies of air pollution and its effects in Sarnia and Hamilton, and in other communities as needed.

We will **update the *Environmental Bill of Rights*** for the first time since the NDP introduced it more than two decades ago, to restore accountability, transparency, and public participation whenever the environment is affected.

We will **clean up the mercury in the English-Wabigoon River system**, so people in Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong First Nations, who have waited far too long for action, can finally once again drink the water and eat the fish their communities have relied on for generations. And we will fund a dedicated mercury treatment centre so they can get the care they need after decades of mercury poisoning. We will maintain the commitment to index the Mercury Disability Fund, and commit an additional **\$12 million to make retroactive payments to people suffering** because of the provincial government's inaction.



# Fresh, local food and safe, clean water

- ➔ We will create a provincial food and water strategy
- ➔ We will ensure every Ontarian, including those in Indigenous communities, has safe, reliable drinking water

**ONTARIO IS BLESSED** with great wealth, farmland and fresh water. Yet families are experiencing growing food insecurity, and our food and water systems are at risk. It's time our provincial government brought everyone to the table, and stood up together for Ontario's food and water.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **develop a Provincial Food and Water Strategy**, to promote health through access to healthy food, put public access to drinking water first, and strengthen the resilience of Ontario's food systems. We'll work with a range of groups, from farmers and academics to gardeners and cooks, and build on work by groups like Sustain Ontario.

We believe water is a public trust, and an Ontario Water Strategy will prioritize planning for water needs now and for future generations based on the public interest and sustainable public access to water. The Ontario Water Strategy will be based on the principle that the public should have access to water for drinking, sanitation and food; ensuring that communities have the water needed for planned sustainable growth. The strategy will create an inventory of water use and return

across the province and will prioritize sustainable long-term water use planning.

We will develop and enforce policies to increase food security and protect clean water. Some of those policies will include:

- ➔ Working with the Ministries of Agriculture and International Trade to ensure farmers, processors and agricultural industries can succeed and grow at a time of immense trade instability
- ➔ Developing a food curriculum that will deliver culturally and regionally appropriate learning about growing and cooking food
- ➔ Working with the Ministry of Community and Social Services to make food more affordable and available to low-income families
- ➔ Ensuring Source Water Protection Plans are implemented so every Ontarian has access to reliable, safe drinking water, and we can end water advisories
- ➔ Setting targets for reducing obesity and diet-related illness, and working with local providers to municipalities, universities, colleges, schools and hospitals to increase healthy local options

# Smother commutes, shorter drives and more transportation choices

- ➔ We will cover 50% of operating costs for municipal transit
- ➔ We will provide two-way all-day GO rail service between Kitchener—Waterloo and Toronto
- ➔ We will have year-round GO rail service between Niagara and Toronto
- ➔ We will implement a Northern Rail Strategy that restores Ontario Northlander's passenger service and supports the Huron Central and Algoma Central Rail Lines
- ➔ We will build Toronto's Downtown Relief Line ASAP
- ➔ We will build Hamilton's LRT right away

**AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, FAST** public transit benefits everyone. It takes cars off the road, thinning traffic and letting commerce move. It creates a greener Ontario and gets people where they want to go affordably with less stress for everyone. And it connects people with opportunity, whether it's a dream job or a quality education.

People should be able to count on transit in their communities. That means taking concrete steps to ensure buses, trains and streetcars run on time, that people won't be packed in or stuck at the stop because the bus is full, and that people can afford to use transit.

As Minister of Transportation, Kathleen Wynne was responsible for ripping up Toronto's ambitious Transit City plan. As

premier, she's overseen scandal after scandal at Metrolinx, a stalled Downtown Toronto Relief Line, delays to GO Regional Express Rail, GO fares that are increasing three times faster than inflation, and privatization of transit construction and services across the province.

And the last Conservative government cancelled the Eglinton Subway and literally filled in the foundation that had already been dug and paid for.

Let's stop choosing between bad and worse when it comes to transit.

## **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will fund **50% of net transit and paratransit operating costs**

**across Ontario.** This funding will immediately allow transit operators to improve services, provide more equitable and affordable fares, and have the financial stability to experiment and pilot innovative solutions like the TTC's King Street Transit Pilot, timed transfers, low-income passes, and updated Ridership Growth Strategies. That means investing more than **\$330 million in Toronto and over \$800 million across the province.**

We will bring **two-way all-day GO service between Kitchener–Waterloo and Toronto** and year-round **GO rail service between Niagara and Toronto.** We will also **electrify GO networks and the UP Express,** and make sure GO planning integrates with density plans so we can take more cars off the road, lowering carbon emissions and speeding up commerce.

We will continue to build transit across Ontario. In Toronto we will make it a priority to **fund and build the Downtown Toronto Relief Line.**

We will implement a Northern Rail Strategy, which will include getting **Ontario Northlander's passenger service running, and supporting the Huron Central and Algoma Central Rail Lines.**

And we'll **build Hamilton's long-awaited LRT.** Waffling on this project equals more delays on this project — and Hamilton can't wait any longer. Like all municipal transit services, the province will fund 50% of the operating costs, so that Hamiltonians have the low-cost, high-quality service they need.

We will end the wasteful practice of the federal and provincial governments developing parallel and often uncoordinated rail services. We will direct Metrolinx to begin multilateral discussions with the federal government and local transit authorities focused on coordinating GO train and VIA Rail service with urban transit. That means fare integration, coordinated scheduling, joint funding, and even the possibility of shared rolling stock, so people paying a fare with PRESTO on GO or

## **Fran Cote** Iroquois Falls

**As a cancer patient who lives in a small community in Northeastern Ontario, the Northlander train was my link to my specialists in Toronto. The train ride was long but it was comfortable and safe and my doctors were relieved that I wasn't doing the long drive on icy roads.**

**That was the case until the Liberal government under Dalton McGuinty decided in 2012 that our one and only passenger train in Northeastern Ontario was one train too many and he cancelled it. My doctors could not understand why this safe and convenient method of transportation would be taken away from people who needed this service. I don't understand it either.**



the Union Pearson Express **for a trip within Toronto, or a GO trip of less than 10 km, will pay a \$3 fare.**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will update Ontario's Cycling Strategy, setting a specific goal for the number of trips by bicycle. The strategy will set out investment targets to improve cycling infrastructure across Ontario, with a particular focus on commuting routes.

We will pass a **Vulnerable Road Users' Law** based on NDP Private Member's Bills, specifically designed to protect people such as cyclists and pedestrians.

We will require cities and municipalities to develop active transportation plans by 2021 that meet the needs and realities of their communities.

## The Better Ontario Fund

**COMMUNITIES ACROSS ONTARIO** have seen the impact of decades of cuts to public services and public investment. The most obvious examples are things like roads, schools or hospitals that need repair. What is less obvious are the cuts to programs which have left seniors isolated; stopped young people from playing sports, learning music or participating in arts; and kept newcomers isolated in their new home.

### Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will launch the Better Ontario Fund, a **\$300-million commitment**, spent over three years, to make life better for people across Ontario. Community-based not-for-profit organizations will be able to apply for grants to improve the lives of people left behind over the last 20 years. The Fund will support initiatives like recreation programs for low-income young people, services that help newcomers integrate in their communities, and programs to keep seniors engaged in their community.

## Fighting poverty

**WE OWE IT** to each other and to ourselves to end poverty, especially child poverty. We want a province where every Ontarian can live with dignity and optimism.

But over the last 20 years, governments have allowed poverty to deepen. Too often, they've ignored the root causes and failed to take basic steps to address poverty. Conservative

and Liberal governments froze or cut social assistance programs, child care, affordable housing, and the services that help people get out of poverty and get into the middle class.

### Our change for the better

Throughout this platform, you'll find commitments that will have a direct impact in reducing poverty, such as:

- ➔ Our 10-year investment to build 65,000 units of affordable housing and 30,000 units of supportive housing over the next 10 years
- ➔ Our universal pharmacare plan — a drug plan that covers everyone
- ➔ Our Dental Care for Everyone plan

We endorse the provincial Income Security Roadmap for Change report and its findings. We will work with the Income Security Reform Working Group, First Nations Income Security Reform Working Group and Urban Indigenous Table on Income Security Reform to achieve the objectives laid out in the Roadmap.

The rules governing social assistance are complicated and often punitive. The focus of the social assistance system should be helping people overcome barriers, get out of poverty and participate in society. Social assistance should be based on a trust, working together, and solving problems.

According to the recommendation made in the Roadmap, we will begin by establishing a **new, flat rate structure** that is simple and fair.

Based on the advice of the working group, **people receiving Ontario Works will receive increases of 10%, 7% and 5%**, while people receiving support from the Ontario Disability Support Program will see annual increases of 5%. Future increases will be based on income adequacy, and set by an independent panel.

We will **continue Ontario's Basic Income pilot** and evaluate its outcomes. We endorse the call to develop a minimum income standard over the next decade that will lift people out of poverty.

We are committed to making jobs better by **increasing the minimum wage to \$15 before indexing it to inflation**, making it easier for people to join a union, making workplaces safer, and building an economy focused on people.

## A province for all, of all abilities

- ➔ We will fully implement the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*
- ➔ Those with disabilities will no longer have to re-apply for supports when they turn 18

**ONTARIO IS AT** its best when everyone can live good lives, and when nobody is excluded from their community. That means making sure we're accommodating the distinct needs and strengths of everyone — with the lifelong supports that allow us to thrive.

### **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will fully implement and enforce the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. We are committed to removing barriers to participation in the life of our communities and our province, and in particular to the job market.

We're committed to ensuring that every government initiative is designed from the start to allow people of all abilities to access government services and programs.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will earmark affordable housing units for Ontarians with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Our investment in **30,000 units of supportive housing** will give adults who have developmental disabilities access to housing that ensures they can live rich lives with more independence.

We will no longer require people to reapply for supports after turning 18, and join long waiting lists for services like respite, employment training, life skills training, and support services. We will **invest \$67 million**



**annually in increasing support for agencies that provide services to adults with developmental disabilities** so they can participate in their communities, have options for public services, and have a great quality of life.

## Protecting vulnerable children

**CHILDREN IN PROVINCIAL** care are some of the most vulnerable people in Ontario. The government has a duty to keep them safe and defend their interests.

Yet year after year, Liberal and Conservative governments have chosen to freeze budgets and force providers to try to do more with less.

Experts like Cindy Blackstock have noted that there are more Indigenous children in care today than were in residential schools at their height. Racialized and Indigenous children are overrepresented.

And every year, between 90 and 120 of Ontario's most vulnerable children die in care.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will make every effort to bring that number to zero. We will strengthen protections, increase transparency and give a greater voice to the children in our care.

### **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will strengthen the role of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. We will give the office stronger investigatory powers and oversight power such as the ability to force information disclosure and protect whistleblowers.

We will ensure parents or whistleblowers can call the Ontario Ombudsman with any concerns about their local Children's Aid Society.



We will end the solitary confinement of children.

We will work with experts, advocates and First Nations and cultural community leaders to identify the supports racialized and Indigenous children need to succeed and thrive.

We will give children in care a greater say in the decisions that are made about their care. And where disputes arise over family custody and children in care, we will focus on greater use of mediation instead of the courts.

## Better support for children with autism

- ➔ We will launch a comprehensive autism-support strategy, built in collaboration with parents, caregivers, experts and people with autism

**FAMILIES OF CHILDREN** with autism have been let down repeatedly by the provincial government. Families and children know what it's like to be shuttled from one waitlist to another, never actually getting the support that will help kids and young adults achieve their full potential.

It's time to overhaul the way Ontario delivers support services for children on the autism spectrum, and to put the needs of kids and their families first.

### Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will develop a **comprehensive autism-support strategy**, in full collaboration with families, caregivers, people with autism and experts in the field. We will base care on a person's need rather than their age, so that care can follow them as they grow older. And we recognize the wide diversity of the autism spectrum; we will stress high-quality public services that follow an approach tailored to each individual's distinct abilities and challenges.

## Fixing Ontario's Family Responsibility Office

**FOR THE HUNDREDS** of thousands of people who count on their services, especially children and single moms, dealing with the Family Responsibility Office ought to be transparent and straightforward.

They need to get the child and spousal support payments they're owed. But all too often, they get unnecessary paperwork, lengthy waits and runarounds instead.

People deserve to know that the money they are owed will be there for them, and that the supports they're entitled to will be administered fairly.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work with the Ombudsman of Ontario, the Auditor General, front-line workers, payees, and payers to **reform the Family Responsibility Office** and put prompt, effective service for families first.

# Respect and equity

**MOST PEOPLE IN** Ontario share a deep-seated respect for diversity, and treasure values like equality.

But our province often doesn't live up to those values. Sometimes it's because of overt discrimination; other times it's structures and systems that treat some groups of people unfairly.

We believe Ontario is stronger when we embrace our differences as well as what we have in common. And we believe that our provincial government has a crucial role to play in ending discrimination, breaking down outdated systems and structures that promote discrimination, and helping us all have a better understanding of each other.

## Our change for the better

### GENDER EQUITY

Women in Ontario deserve access to equity in pay, health, education and opportunities.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **update and enforce the Pay Equity Act** to address the gender wage gap, and bring greater equity to corporate boards so that women have better

economic opportunities, fairer incomes and face fewer barriers.

We will apply an intersectional gender lens — an understanding of how issues like gender and race can interact to dramatically change the way people's lives are affected — to government budgeting, policy and programming.

Our universal pharmacare plan will ensure that every woman can afford birth control.

We will expand access to midwife care and workplace maternity benefits.

Our child care plan will enable moms to re-enter the workforce more easily.

We will work to eliminate the "pink tax" — the premium on the price of products marketed to women, from razors to dry cleaning services to children's toys — so women aren't being gouged.

We will properly fund women's shelters and transitional housing, and ensure there are services and programs available to help women recover from partner violence and abuse. And we will set aside a portion of the 65,000

units of affordable housing we are building for women and their families escaping violence.

We will fight gender-based violence and ensure that survivors of domestic or sexual violence are listened to, believed and supported. We will work to prevent violence through education, training and programs to change the behaviours of abusers. This will include access to evidence-based programs, both court-ordered and voluntary, to change the behaviours of those who use violence based on level of risk.

We will use a whole-of-government approach to end gender-based violence on campuses, in workplaces and in the community through education, prevention, and training.

We will implement the recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee to prevent more Ontario women and children from dying at the hands of their intimate partner.

We will implement trauma and violence-informed approaches to ensure that survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence are listened to, believed and supported. We will build capacity within Sexual Assault Centres and Workers Health & Safety Centres on workplace sexual harassment, and implement

mandatory workplace training on domestic violence and sexual violence.

We will implement Access Without Fear policies for police, health, and social services to ensure that all survivors get the support they need regardless of immigration status.

We will improve accountability for campus sexual assault policies and make information collected from the campus climate survey available through open data.

We will fund **10 days of paid leave for women escaping violence**, and ensure they can access additional leave if they need it without fear of repercussions at work.

## FIGHTING RACISM AND HATE

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work collaboratively to identify and remove systemic and structural bias, and work to promote equity and inclusion.

We will ensure that the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate has the funds and staff it needs to do its job. The directorate will administer **a new four-year \$20 million Ontario Anti-Racism Fund**, supporting community organizations fighting racism and fostering equity and inclusion.

## Dawnmarie Harriott Toronto

**When I decided to leave my abusive partner, I was forced to quit a good, steady job. I ended up on the street. This paid leave and the right to 15 weeks unpaid leave would have helped me. It would have given me the time I needed to find a safe place to live. It would have made all the difference.**



We will work to **end the streaming of racialized youth** into educational tracks that don't recognize — and can't realize — their individual potential.

We will **end the policing practice of carding**.

We will work through our education and justice systems to recognize and stop anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-Indigenous racism and all other forms of systemic racism.



## **FIGHTING HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP believe every Ontarian should feel safe to live their life authentically, with a government that shows them support and provides them with respect.

We will continue to protect the rights of LGBTQIA2S+ people.

We will ensure LGBTQIA2S+ people have access to health-care options that are friendly, competent and meet their needs. This will include initiatives such as LGBTQIA2S+-affirming long-term care homes, health services that are welcoming to LGBTQIA2S+ people, and access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) through the NDP pharmacare program.

We will ensure LGBTQIA2S+ communities have access to affirmative and inclusive health care. We'll **fully cover the costs of transition drugs**. And we'll improve access to primary and secondary procedures in Ontario.

## **PROVIDING SANCTUARY**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **declare Ontario to be a sanctuary province**. Cities across Ontario have declared themselves to be sanctuary cities, where people can access basic services without fear, regardless of their immigration status. This is the decent, humane thing to do.

We believe strongly in the rules governing immigration and citizenship, but we will never withhold basic life-saving services from undocumented people. We will ensure that anyone can visit an Emergency Room without penalty. And we will end the practice of holding federal immigration detainees in provincial correctional facilities.

# Supporting local libraries and museums

- ➔ We will unfreeze library budgets, and invest \$3 million per year so that libraries across Ontario can give out free passes to local museums and galleries

**BEYOND THEIR COLLECTIONS** and exhibits, Ontario's network of libraries, museums and galleries host programming and meeting spaces where communities come together; present information and knowledge in new, engaging ways; and introduce children and adults alike to new ideas and voices.

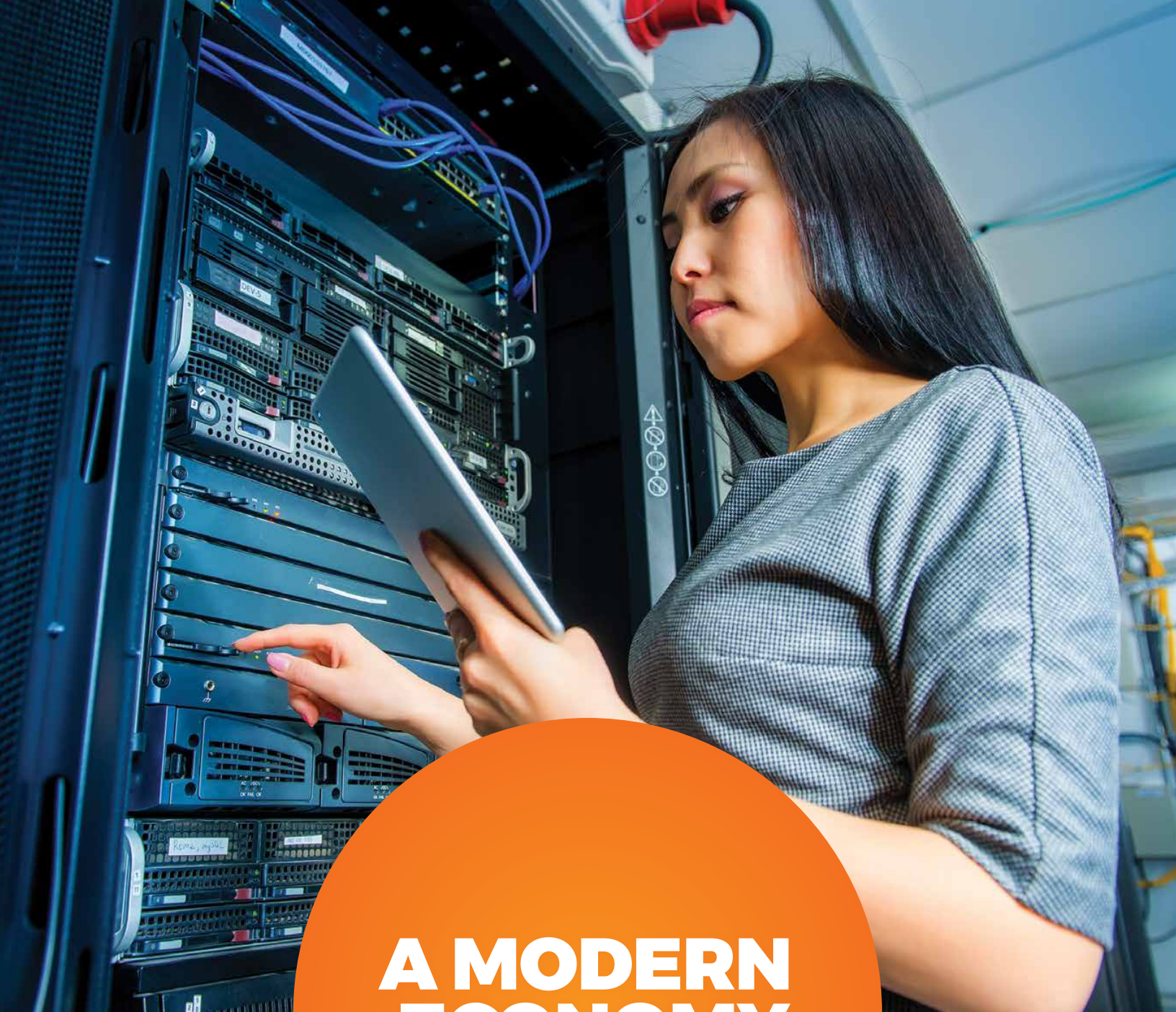
## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will build on the success of the Toronto Public Library's

Museum + Arts Pass program, allowing library patrons to get a pass to the local museums and galleries. The program is scheduled to end; instead, we will save it and extend it to communities across Ontario with a \$3 million annual investment.

We will work with librarians, library boards and information experts to improve library systems across Ontario.





**A MODERN  
ECONOMY**  
that works for  
everyone

Economies are changing around the world. Technologies are advancing, making new industries possible and sending others into decline. Climate concerns and the shift from a carbon economy are opening opportunities for many, but at the risk of closing doors for many others.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP believe that our economy should serve our people – all of our people. Economic growth and prosperity should be shared widely, not concentrated in a few hands. The working people who create that wealth should be able to support their families and plan for the future, instead of falling further behind. And as our economy changes, our provincial government has a responsibility to ensure nobody is left behind.

From people working at Ontario's largest employers, to people working in small businesses, social enterprises and cooperative businesses, we believe everyone should be able to find great opportunities in Canada's largest economy.

## Our changes for the better

- ➔ We will require employers to offer at least three weeks paid vacation, up from two
- ➔ We will have card-based union certification, and first-contract arbitration
- ➔ We will increase the minimum wage to \$15 for everyone, then index it to inflation so it keeps its buying power
- ➔ We will offer a better way to start a career with new ways to learn on the job for students and apprentices
- ➔ We will invest over \$180 billion in infrastructure – without wasteful P3s

# Better workplaces, better lives

**OUR ECONOMY RELIES** on the hard work of Ontarians. And that work deserves to be recognized and respected.

For many Ontarians, work is low-paid, part-time and insecure, offering no benefits and little opportunity to plan for the future. Precarious, unstable employment is on the rise, and more and more people are holding down multiple jobs to make ends meet.

One way we can turn that around, and respect the work people do, is by allowing more working people to organize in unions. Union membership lets them bargain collectively for better pay, benefits and working conditions.

About 1.7 million Ontarians earn the minimum wage or close to it. A higher minimum wage would put more money in their pockets to spend in their communities. The Liberals are leaving students, bartenders and servers behind, allowing them to be paid less than minimum wage — less than every other worker in the province, regardless of whether or not they'll earn tips consistently, or at all. The Conservatives are worse; they'd cancel minimum wage increases.

One more way we can respect the work people do is to make it safer. Every year, hundreds of people are killed on the job, thousands are injured and countless more must deal with complications from work-related environmental illnesses and trauma. And the flow of new materials and technologies into our workplaces raises challenges too. As our workplaces change, our workplace safety rules and insurance should evolve as well.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will protect the right to join a union by making sure any workplace can unionize when 55% of workers sign a union card. And we will introduce first-contract arbitration legislation that will prevent long, tactical delays by employers.

We will distinguish between people who want to work independently and those who are pushed into contract work. People are too often misclassified as contractors when they are, for all purposes, a permanent employee. We will ensure that people who are employees are treated as such, with access to equal pay, benefits and protections, while making sure that those who choose to be independent workers have access to benefits, vacation and sick pay, pensions, and parental leave and are covered by employment standards and safety laws. And we'll establish a broader-based bargaining structure so our labour laws reflect the reality that so many Ontarians live in and work in.

We will **increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, and index ongoing increases to inflation**, making it more predictable for families and businesses. And we will ensure that all workers are entitled to earn no less than the minimum wage, so bar and restaurant staff, students and young people aren't left out.

Along with better pay and Ontario Benefits, we will require employers to provide at least **three weeks paid vacation** to every full-time employee.



We will work to reduce workplace injuries and better support injured workers. We'll require regular updates of workplace safety rules and WSIB rates and coverage. We will expand coverage and definitions of occupational illnesses, and set up a task force to

remove barriers between injured workers and the compensation they deserve. WSIB will pay benefits that recognize lost wages. And we will ensure workplace safety inspections are stringent, transparent and publicly run.

## Spending Smarter

- ➔ We will invest \$180 billion in infrastructure over the next 10 years
- ➔ We won't invest in wasteful P3s
- ➔ We will ensure the government buys more of what it needs from Ontario small and medium-sized businesses

**WE WILL INVEST \$180 billion in infrastructure over the next decade.** But we'll focus on public projects instead of wasteful public-private partnerships — the kind the Auditor General found to have cost taxpayers an extra \$8 billion.

And we will **expand Community Benefits Agreements**, making them integral to all infrastructure projects. These agreements give experience to Ontario apprentices and give growing companies a chance to supply projects with their goods and services — while setting standards for efficiency and climate-resilient construction.

Ontario spends \$6 billion every year on goods and services. We'll require that a minimum

percentage of those purchases come from Ontario small and medium-sized businesses, with **33% to come from small and scaling businesses**. And we'll work with First Nations governments to set minimum targets for buying from First Nations-owned and operated businesses.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will overhaul the province's supports for small and medium-sized businesses, coordinating them with our **economic cluster strategy**. They'll have clear objectives with real benefits for Ontarians, such as overall employment, skills development, community benefits, regional growth, innovation targets, export growth, and coordination with local chambers and educational institutions.

# An economy running on all cylinders

**ONTARIO'S ECONOMY IS** incredibly diverse and dynamic. Our province's success and prosperity relies on our ability to foster growth in all of our economic sectors. We've geared our economic plan to do just that, but some sectors need particular attention.

## Our change for the better

### **MADE IN ONTARIO: A PLAN FOR AUTO AND MANUFACTURING JOBS**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP are committed to expanding auto and manufacturing jobs in Ontario. As the daughter of an autoworker, Andrea Horwath knows what a good manufacturing job can mean to a family.

Together with industry, labour and our college system, we will identify skills gaps and work to close them.

We will **create a stream within the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to promote manufacturing research and development.**

We will work with the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council and Ontario's new Chief Investment Officer to **create a "single window" for automotive and manufacturing investment.** Ontario will be the premier destination for the next generation of auto manufacturing investment.

And by championing Ontario as trade deals are renegotiated, Andrea Horwath and the NDP will stand up for workers throughout automotive and manufacturing supply chains.

### **STARTING UP IN ONTARIO**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will help make Ontario the best place in Canada to launch an innovative startup and create good, skilled jobs.

Our drug and dental programs will help make Ontario attractive to startup founders and the talent they want to hire, with the ability to offer employees benefits from day one.

Our reforms to target small businesses in government purchasing will make the province and the broader public sector a key client and buyer of Ontario technologies and innovation.

We will **create an advisory panel on the innovation economy** made up of domestic business leaders, experts and workers. Their job: to guide us in expanding Ontario's innovation economy and home-grown innovation leaders, bringing more publicly-funded research and development to market, shrinking the skilled-labour gap, and ensuring that innovation supports good jobs in regions across the province.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE JOBS**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will defend jobs in the resource sector. We'll **develop a Provincial Forest Strategy** to protect the long-term sustainability of our forests. And we will defend our resource sector's viability by ensuring it meets the highest environmental and sustainability standards.

We will bring a badly needed jolt of political energy to **get things moving on the Ring of Fire**. Northern communities have waited far too long.

- ➔ We will spend \$1 billion to get the Ring of Fire moving, now
- ➔ We will collaborate with northern communities and First Nations to quickly begin building the infrastructure that will allow development projects to proceed
- ➔ We will fight to bring smelting and ferrochrome processing to Northern Ontario. Unlike the Ford Conservatives, we do not believe it's acceptable to locate these plants on the American side of the border

## AGRICULTURE

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **raise the cap the Liberals imposed on the Risk Management Program** in 2012, which rendered a made-in-Ontario solution to global instability unreliable and ineffective.

We will defend supply management for Ontario's farmers.

We will protect Ontario's Production Insurance Program, and work with farmers to keep it fully funded and simple to access, so it offers them real protection.

We will work with farmers and municipal leaders to protect Ontario's farmland from encroachment by land speculators.

We will work with farming groups to ensure young farmers can get their foot in the door. And we will expand the government's definition of farming and food production to include new definitions such as urban farming.

## APPRENTICESHIPS

- ➔ We will invest \$57 million from the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to create opportunities in the trades
- ➔ We will focus on bringing more women and equity-seeking groups into skilled trades

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **invest \$57 million annually from the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to create opportunities in the trades**. We will bring together labour unions, employers, the Ontario College of Trades, and individual tradespeople to ensure that college programs are funded; to identify and develop new opportunities for apprenticeship; and to ensure young people know the opportunities that can come from a skilled trade. We will put a particular **focus on bringing more women into the skilled trades**.

## CULTURE

Andrea Horwath and the NDP believe a career in the arts shouldn't mean a struggle to get by. The Ontario Benefits program and universal pharmacare will help ensure that people working in the arts have benefits like access to drugs and dental care — and make us more attractive for film and TV projects as they consider production locations.

We will **stabilize annual funding for the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Media Development Corporation**, and ensure it meets the needs of both new and established artists.

We will **establish a new \$50-million fund over the next five years out of the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to match TV and film industry investment in new studio space**.

We will work with municipal governments to **streamline zoning for new and expanded TV and film production facilities**. We will maintain stable, predictable and competitive tax credits to bring productions to Ontario and keep those jobs here.

And our \$10-million investment to allow libraries to give out passes to museums and galleries will move more people through those important cultural centres.

## HORSE RACING

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work with rural communities, tracks, municipalities and horse families to undo the damage caused by the Liberals' reckless decision to cut the Slots At Racetracks Program (SARP), and build a long-term plan to revitalize this sector and protect the livelihood of these family farms.

# Opportunities throughout Ontario

- ➔ We will develop a cluster strategy
- ➔ We will make it a priority to invest in northern and rural infrastructure
- ➔ We will invest \$100 million in natural gas expansion to rural Ontario
- ➔ We will spend \$1 billion to bring broadband service to rural and northern Ontario

**ONTARIO'S ECONOMY ONLY** succeeds when everyone shares in the province's prosperity, no matter where in the province they live. But that hasn't been happening. We need economic strategies that help create opportunities and wealth throughout our province.

One of the most promising economic development approaches in years has been to focus on regional clusters. Ontario has strong existing clusters including financial services in Toronto, automotive and manufacturing across the southwest, telecom in Ottawa, information technology in Kitchener–Waterloo and mining innovation in Sudbury.

Clusters increase productivity and innovation and stimulate new business. We know that strengthening these clusters will help increase innovation and a growing economy that benefits people in regions across Ontario.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **develop and implement a cluster strategy** focused on bringing together all actors within a strategic regional industry.

We will bring together local small and medium sized businesses, large anchor organizations, their suppliers, local colleges and universities,

and all levels of government to collaborate on strategies to enhance the competitiveness of our regional industries. While Liberal and Conservative governments have abandoned whole regions and economies, New Democrats will build on their strengths across Ontario.

We will harness public and private sector leadership, private capital, labour expertise, regulation, and both private and public infrastructure investment to create successful clusters.

And we will make it a **priority to invest in northern and rural infrastructure**. In addition to fixing schools and maintaining hospitals, this will include increasing access to reliable broadband and natural gas across Ontario to reduce dependence on high-carbon diesel and heating oil. We will **invest \$100 million in natural gas expansion to rural Ontario**, and create a **10-year \$1 billion fund for bringing broadband service to rural and northern Ontario**. We will lobby the federal government to match it.

## Lifelong learning

**ONTARIO'S EDUCATED WORKFORCE** is one of our greatest advantages in a global economy. But with that economy changing rapidly and constantly, people need to have the tools for lifelong learning to succeed. And businesses across Ontario need those people to be able to quickly develop new skills and hone current ones. Both can benefit from our globally competitive university and college system.

### Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work with businesses and post-secondary institutions

to increase opportunities for lifelong training to ensure that people and businesses can keep pace with industrial and technological changes.

We will create a **fund within the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to create opportunities for mid-career education**, offering training for people who are working and those who are between employment.

And we will review and reform Employment Ontario programs so that they work for the modern economy.



**BETTER  
GOVERNMENT**  
replacing cynicism  
with hope

It shouldn't be too much for people to expect their government to be straight with them. To tell them when things are going well, and come clean when they're not.

But years of betrayals, reversals and outright lies from politicians — including many of Ontario's leaders — have left Ontarians cynical — and rightfully so.

Replacing cynicism with hope is going to take a government that's honest. A government that puts people at the heart of every decision it makes. That's going to take Andrea Horwath and the NDP.

## Our changes for the better

- We will introduce a new MPP Code of Conduct
- We will strike an electoral reform commission
- We will restore funding for the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund

# Cleaning up after two decades of scandals

**IT'S BEEN NEARLY** two decades from the moment the Conservatives tried to privatize Hydro One, to the Liberals finishing the sell-off. During those years we've seen scandals over the gas plants, Ornge air ambulance, cash-for-access to ministers, the Sudbury by-election, and PC membership lists, nominations and finances.

Ontarians deserve a lot better. They deserve politicians and leaders who will behave with integrity and transparency.

It's time for something completely different.

## **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will bring in a strong **MPP Code of Conduct**, with regular

updates in plain language so all Ontarians know what is expected of the people they elect.

We will return full, independent **oversight of Hydro One** to the eight independent offices.

We will work with the Information and Privacy Commissioner to increase government transparency and public access to information, while protecting the privacy of Ontarians.

We will **eliminate costs for Freedom of Information requests**.

And we will ensure true independent oversight of Ontario's health care by bringing it under the oversight of the Ontario Ombudsman.

# Empowering voters

**AGAIN AND AGAIN**, Liberals have promised electoral reform to put more power into voters' hands — only to renege after winning power for themselves.

And Ontario's civic life isn't just suffering from broken promises on voting reform. Conservative and Liberal governments have cut corners on democracy, ending the in-person enumeration of Ontarians and failing to reinstate it. Enumeration ensures accurate lists, and inspires voter confidence and interest in the process.

## **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will **direct Elections Ontario to enumerate Ontario voters**.

We will create an Election Finances Commission to review and provide regular recommendations on updating Ontario's election finance law, with a primary focus on electoral fairness. The commission will include representation from Elections Ontario, members of civil society such as academia, law and civic organizations, and nominees from major political parties.



And we will ask the commission to deliver recommendations on improving Ontario democracy and increasing citizen participation and engagement in the political process, during and between elections. We'll ask that those recommendations include models of proportional representation. We'll also ask

for recommendations for preventing a single party with a legislative majority from changing the fundamental functioning of our democracy, and ensuring that changes are not only in the best interests of Ontarians, but have clear enough support to ensure that they will be stable and long-term.

## Working with cities

**MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS ARE** often called the level of government closest to the people — and no wonder. They deliver services that everyone counts on, from maintaining streets and sewers to operating emergency shelters that directly and immediately make people's lives better.

They deserve an honest partnership with the provincial government, and not the blaming and buck-passing we've seen from Liberal and Conservative governments.

### Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work closely with municipalities to forge a new partnership.

The Ontario NDP has long supported Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) reform that gives local communities, municipal planners and democratically-accountable representatives the authority to set the overall vision for how their neighbourhoods grow and change.

Replacing the OMB with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) is a step in the right direction. An NDP government will ensure that the LPAT lives up to its mandate to ensure local communities and local planners are respected and supported when they invest time and resources getting support for updated land use plans and policies.

We will reform the unelected board to direct it to apply policy, not make it.

We will **restore funding to the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)**, allowing local governments to make long-term plans. And we will work with lower-tier municipalities to ensure they can get funding for important local priorities. We will restore funding, increasing it to \$550 million.

And we will allow municipal governments to experiment with reforms such as permanent-resident voting and alternative voting, to encourage greater participation in civic life.



**RECONCILIATION**

It has been nearly three years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission delivered its report, and its 94 calls to action to heal the relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples.

Yet First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Ontario continue to face systemic barriers to basic rights enjoyed by others in Ontario – dirty water, unsafe housing, gendered violence, unfair treatment by the justice system and more.

Reconciliation demands a lot more than ceremonies and symbolic gestures. It demands good faith – and it demands action.

## Our changes for the better

- We will establish a true government-to-government relationship with Ontario's First Nations
- We will work with First Nations leaders to sign a cooperative, government-to-government accord
- We will implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- We will replace the *Far North Act*
- We will implement revenue sharing
- We will invest \$209 million immediately in the First Nations Health Action Plan
- We will invest \$28 million for urgent repairs and capital upgrades at Friendship Centres, plus an ongoing investment of \$91 million over six years into 28 Friendship Centres
- We will exempt First Nations communities from electricity delivery charges

# Government-to-government relationship

**THE LAST ONTARIO** NDP government reached historic accords with First Nations, setting out the principle that the province and First Nations would work together to ensure that the interests and treaty rights of First Nations were respected.

We will build on successes and learn from our shared experiences.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work with Ontario's First Nations in a true government-to-government relationship.

We will build on the successes that Ontario's last NDP government had working

with First Nations, building a contemporary relationship.

We will take action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, setting priorities in consultation First Nations and others, with a desire to move first on the recommendations related specifically to provincial jurisdiction.

We will work with First Nations leaders on an appropriate replacement for the *Far North Act*.

We will work to establish new, stable revenue sources for First Nations, such as through mining royalties.

# Revenue sharing

**WE BELIEVE THE** benefits from our province's natural wealth should benefit everyone. Revenues from the royalties on those resources should help support First Nations and Indigenous communities.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath will transfer the province's share of mining taxes to Ontario's First Nations, working with First Nations leadership.

# Better health care for First Nations and Indigenous people

**IT'S OUTRAGEOUS THAT** in 2018, First Nations and Indigenous people do not have access to the same level of health services

as non-Indigenous Ontarians. Many First Nations communities struggle to ensure that people have access to even basic health care.

And successive Conservative and Liberal governments have failed to change the situation.

The roots of this crisis lie in the history of colonization, and in ongoing systemic racism and discrimination to this day. Far too many First Nations and Indigenous people have been told to settle for unacceptable access to health care, not to mention a lack of safe drinking water in roughly 90 communities, and unlivable housing conditions. The result: elders unable to get the seniors care they need; families waiting weeks just to see a nurse; people waiting to be flown off-reserve for vital care; mothers and fathers losing children to the youth suicide crisis; and perpetual boil-water advisories.

It's time to stop settling.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP are committed to providing better health-care services in partnership with First Nations in every community.

We will listen to First Nations leaders who are already leading the transformation of First Nations health care, and do all we can to support their work.

We will **double Ontario's investment in the First Nations Health Action Plan**, providing at least \$209 million per year, starting in 2019.

We will, in partnership with the communities involved, **invest the capital needed to ensure communities have sustainable access to clean water**. And we will send the bill to Ottawa.

We will listen to First Nations about which investments will do the most good in their

communities. We anticipate that our doubled investment will support:

- ➔ Health-care programs designed and implemented by First Nations
- ➔ More physician days, allowing communities to have access to a doctor for more than just a few days every month
- ➔ Measures to address the challenge of recruiting and keeping physicians and health care workers, especially in northern and remote communities
- ➔ Expanded primary care teams that include traditional healing approaches
- ➔ Expanded youth programs, crisis support, trauma response teams, and suicide-prevention training
- ➔ Improved diabetes prevention and management
- ➔ More home and community-care services and telemedicine options
- ➔ Support for midwifery care and maternal health

We won't allow jurisdictional disputes between the federal and provincial governments to stand in the way of action, and keep people from the care they need. Instead of arguing with the federal government first and acting later, we will act first — in full partnership with First Nations — and argue with the federal government later.

For example, in a significant change from current practice, we will support health-care infrastructure investment in First Nations communities. We won't let inadequate federal investment in First Nations health-care infrastructure stand in the way of attracting and retaining health care workers — and in the way of providing the excellent health care services that everyone in Ontario deserves.

# Safety and community security

**PEOPLE LIVING IN** First Nations communities deserve to feel safe, and that means First Nations governments need adequate funding for policing. They also need clear legislation — developed jointly between Ontario and First Nations governments — to allow First Nations to provide professional policing for their communities.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work with First Nations to draft stand-alone legislation for First Nations police services.

We will **commit \$30 million to First Nations policing** — double the federal government's funding commitment.

We supported the establishment of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and will continue to support the survivors and families as they seek answers and justice.

And we will dedicate resources to solving these crimes in order to give families closure and to give communities the knowledge that these crimes are taken seriously.

# Jobs and opportunity for Indigenous people

**COMMUNITIES CAN ONLY** thrive if they can offer hope — and one of the ways they do that is with good, well-paying jobs.

## Our change for the better

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will require the Employment Training Division to prioritize training for First Nations, Indigenous and Métis Ontarians — with a goal of delivering greater access to training both on- and off-reserve.

As Ontario moves away from private power generation, we will seek greater partnership with First Nations in developing affordable green energy.

We will work with First Nations governments to develop meaningful, clear and growing minimum targets for public-sector procurement from First Nations-owned and operated businesses.

# An urban Indigenous strategy

**MORE AND MORE** Indigenous people live in cities. Many municipalities have begun to develop strategies to strengthen the relationship between municipal governments and Indigenous people and communities. We believe Ontario has a role to play by working

government-to-government with First Nations as well as with urban Indigenous communities to identify actions that will ensure Indigenous people have access to opportunities and services in Ontario's urban centres.

# Friendship Centres: a community's heart

**ACROSS ONTARIO, FRIENDSHIP** Centres serve as community hubs for First Nations, Indigenous and Métis Ontarians. There, they access services and programs they use every day, from early-years support for children, to education assistance, to employment training and services, to health care services.

Unfortunately, many of Ontario's Friendship Centres have been neglected by successive provincial governments, and are in need of investment and repair.

## **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will make an **historic commitment to Ontario's Friendship**

**Centres. We will invest \$28 million for the most urgent repairs and capital upgrades, and an ongoing investment of \$91 million** over six years to bring the 28 Friendship Centres up to a state of good repair.

We will invest **\$41 million over four years in programming such as the Children Who Witness Violence Program**, programming for 18- to 24-year olds, and other innovative and contemporary programs identified by the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC). We will work in collaboration with the OFIFC and urban Indigenous communities to ensure programs meet the changing needs of local communities.

# Affordable electricity in First Nations communities

**THE IMPACT OF** rising Hydro prices isn't easy to bear anywhere in Ontario. But it's a lot harder to deal with in First Nations communities, especially the most remote ones where they have contributed to the development of the grid, but seen little benefit. They need immediate steps to blunt the impact of hydro's growing price tag.

## **Our change for the better**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will maintain the exemption of people living in First Nations communities from electricity delivery charges. We will continue to connect remote communities to Ontario's grid.

We are committed to returning Hydro One to public ownership. Maintaining a First Nations ownership stake is consistent with our vision of public ownership.



## **FISCAL PLAN:**

end the squeeze on  
families, get our  
finances on track



Economic growth is projected to increase provincial revenues by over \$17 billion over the next four years. But for everyday families, wages have been stagnant, services that make life better and more affordable have only been cut, and families are feeling the squeeze. Our plan delivers better health care, services and affordability for the middle class and low-income Ontarians, and protects them from costs.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP have based our fiscal plan on four principles:

- ➔ We will make investments that make life better for everyone
- ➔ We will protect middle-class families from tax hikes and fee increases
- ➔ We will ensure the wealthiest people and most profitable businesses pay their fair share for the services that make their success possible
- ➔ We will make sure our investment in services is financially sustainable, so we stop the decades-long pattern of cuts and funding freezes

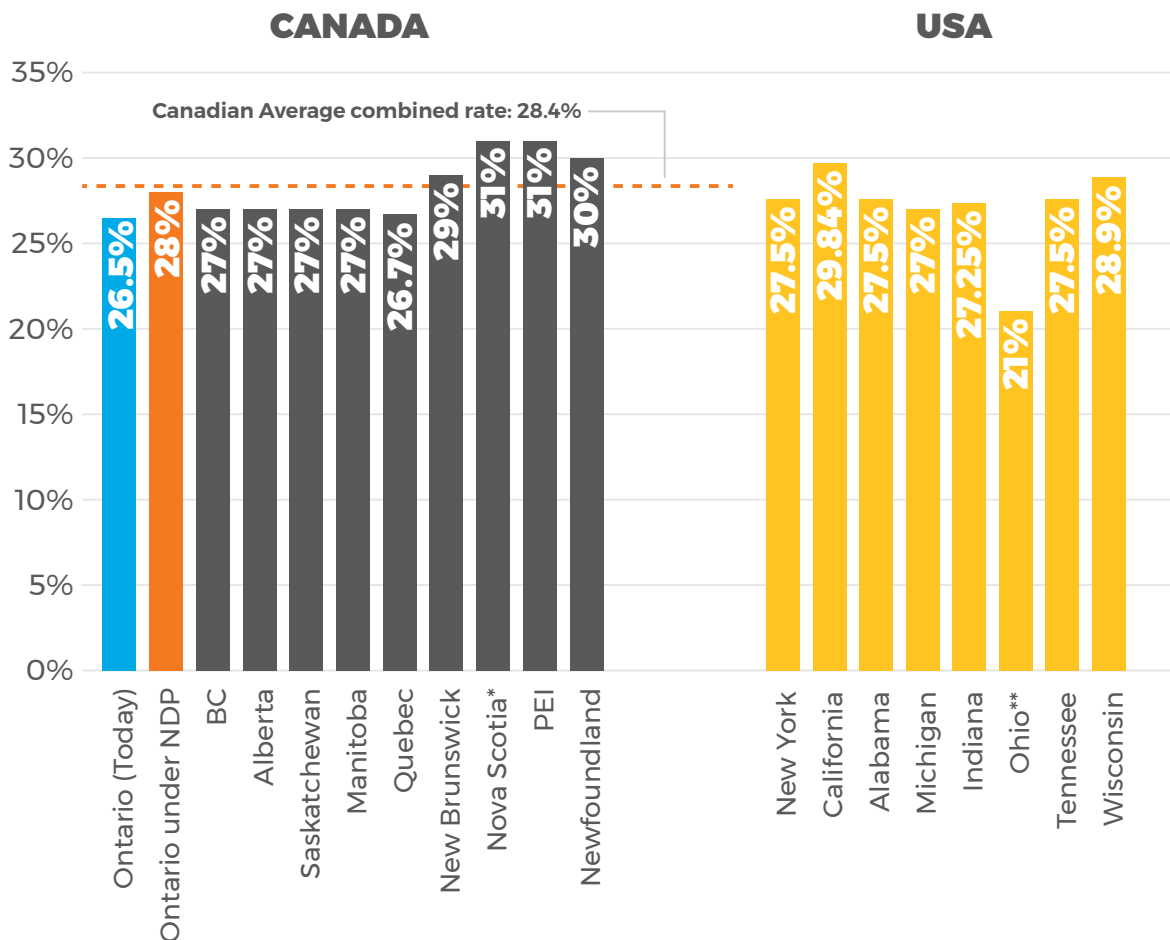
## **Our changes to make better possible**

- ➔ We will end a corporate income-tax giveaway, returning the tax rate on profits to 13% in a fair manner that allows businesses to plan
- ➔ We will close a loophole that's allowing big corporations to qualify for a small business exemption
- ➔ We will maintain the one-third reduction to small business corporate income tax rates
- ➔ We will ask the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share by raising income tax on amounts earned over \$220,000 by one percentage point, and on earnings over \$300,000 by two percentage points
- ➔ We will add a surcharge for vehicles that cost more than \$90,000

# Fair Taxes for the wealthiest corporations, lower taxes for small business

**ONTARIO'S BUSINESSES BENEFIT** significantly from Ontario's highly educated workforce, modern infrastructure and health care system. And they'll benefit even more from the investments we're making. So it's only fair to ask them to pay their share.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will roll back Liberal corporate-income-tax giveaways, returning the tax rate on corporate profits to 13%, up from 11.5%. This is still lower than when the Liberals took power, and will put Ontario's combined rate in line with the national average.



\*Nova Scotia provides a corporate tax holiday under s.42 of their Income Tax Act for the first 3 taxation years of a new small business after incorporation.

\*\*Ohio applies a corporate franchise gross receipts tax

And we'll be competitive with the Great Lake states, even after the Trump tax bill.

To give businesses predictability, we will increase the tax on corporate profits by one percentage point in 2019–20 and 0.5 percentage points in 2021–22.

We will maintain the one-third reduction to small business corporate income tax rates.

Meanwhile, by bringing pharmacare costs into the provincial government and exercising the buying power of 14 million Ontarians, businesses in Ontario stand to save a minimum of \$800 million and as much as \$1.9 billion each year.

We'll make sure small business exemptions in the Employer Health Tax actually go to small businesses.

There are a number of small business exemptions in the Employer Health Tax that are being used by larger businesses. It's time to close that loophole. Starting in 2019–20, businesses with payrolls over \$3 million will no longer qualify for small business exemptions. Starting in 2021–22, small business exemptions will be available only to businesses with payrolls below \$1.5 million. This matches British Columbia's Employer Health Tax exemptions, and will maintain small business exemptions for businesses with 40 or fewer employees.

## We will make the Business Education Tax fairer

**DEPENDING ON WHERE** a business is located in Ontario, it may pay education property taxes as much as 15 times higher as a business located somewhere else in the province — and there's no clear reason for it.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will bring in a uniform Business Education Tax rate. We will continue the Education Tax Reduction Plan, adjusted to equalize rates. And we'll review the way the tax works, to ensure our schools have a stable source of revenue.

## We will make housing more affordable to Ontarians with a speculation tax

**HOUSING SPECULATION AND** flipping are driving up housing prices. We will implement a new speculation tax that will not be

limited to foreign buyers. It will be based on British Columbia's Speculation Tax, and will apply in the regions where the Non-Resident

Speculation Tax (NRST) applies. While the NRST applies only on sales, our anti-speculation tax will apply annually. It will be targeted

toward foreign and domestic speculators who do not pay tax in Ontario.

## We will ask the wealthiest Ontarians to contribute more

**ANDREA HORWATH AND** the NDP will raise the income taxes paid by the wealthiest Ontarians, while still keeping the top rate competitive with neighbouring provinces. Ontarians earning more than \$220,000 will see their income tax increase by one percentage point, while people earning above \$300,000 will see their marginal rate increase by two percentage points.

We will also introduce a modest luxury tax, of 3% on cars sold for over \$90,000. This is based on an existing measure in British Columbia. Only about 1% of sales transactions will be affected, but those purchasing the most luxurious cars will pay a surcharge.

## We will listen to Ontario's Auditor

**EVERY YEAR, ONTARIO'S** Auditor delivers a report with valuable recommendations for avoiding waste and saving money, and a Liberal or Conservative government delivers excuses for not implementing them.

It's time to end that. Andrea Horwath and the NDP will implement the Auditor's suggestions to ensure money is spent properly, and we'll invest the savings into services.

## We will improve the integrity of Ontario's tax collection system

**IN 2012, THE** Liberals received recommendations for doing a better job of recovering uncollected taxes. They haven't acted.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will act on those outstanding recommendations. We will pursue revenue lost to the underground economy, ensure recipients of corporate

support have paid their taxes, collect on non-tax debts and do more to fight the underground economy for tobacco.

The recent Paradise Papers show tax avoidance and evasion are rampant, costing Canada

billions of dollars. We will lobby the federal government to improve the Canada Revenue Agency's ability to clamp down on those practices, and to close unfair tax loopholes that benefit the wealthiest.

## We will tax tobacco based on its value instead of on its volume

**TOBACCO IS CURRENTLY** taxed based on volume. We will tax tobacco based on value. It ensures that as tobacco prices go up, the taxes fairly reflect the value.

## We will only count the revenues we know we can rely on

**WE WANT TO** keep our calculations cautious — and won't count chickens before they hatch. So we've only included revenue sources we know we can count on.

There are a number of other revenue sources that we've kept out of our fiscal framework, because of a lack of government transparency or because there isn't enough data to make a reliable projection.

Some of those potential revenues that we excluded from our framework include:

- ➔ Cracking down on excessive public sector executive compensation
- ➔ The potential for new measures to combat housing speculation
- ➔ Increased revenues from Hydro One, when we fully return it to public ownership

## Fiscal framework

**OUR FISCAL FRAMEWORK** and cost, revenue and economic growth forecasts are based on the fiscal forecasts contained in Budget 2018. This framework shows spending

which is in addition to forecasted Liberal government spending, but does not, unless otherwise shown, include new commitments in Budget 2018.

## NDP MEDIUM TERM FISCAL OUTLOOK (\$ MILLIONS)

based on government assumptions in the 2018 Budget

	YEAR ONE 2018-19 (F)	YEAR TWO 2019-20 (F)	YEAR THREE 2020-21 (F)	YEAR FOUR 2021-22 (F)	YEAR FIVE 2022-23 (F)
<b>BASE SPENDING</b>					
Base Program Expense	\$145,900	\$150,400	\$155,800	\$159,500	\$162,700
Interest on Debt	\$12,500	\$13,100	\$13,800	\$14,900	\$15,500
Base Program Expense Net of Budget Announcements	\$140,200	\$144,100	\$147,500	\$151,034	\$154,065
<b>Total Base Spending Net of Budget Announcements</b>	<b>\$152,700</b>	<b>\$157,200</b>	<b>\$161,300</b>	<b>\$165,934</b>	<b>\$169,565</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL SPENDING</b>					
Hydro Plan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Expand the Ontario Electricity Support Program	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35
Home Efficiency Retro-Fit Program	\$50	—	—	—	—
Pharmacare for Everyone	—	\$475	\$485	\$494	\$504
Increase Base Hospital Funding to Reach 5.3% Annual Growth	\$363	\$757	\$1,184	\$1,646	\$2,145
2,000 New Hospital Beds	\$312	\$328	\$346	\$364	\$383
Doubling the First Nations Health Action Plan	—	\$105	\$107	\$109	\$111
4 Hours of Hands-on Care	\$132	\$268	\$274	\$279	\$285
15,000 Additional Long-Term Care Beds	\$164	\$213	\$296	\$462	\$923
Investing in Home Care	\$300	\$306	\$312	\$318	\$325
Palliative Care	\$15	—	—	—	—
Children's Mental Health	\$120	\$115	\$117	\$120	\$122
2,200 new mental health workers	\$50	\$101	\$152	\$204	\$208
Community Based Agencies Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities	\$67	\$67	\$67	\$67	\$67
Community Health Centres	\$30	\$40	\$50	\$60	\$70
Take-Home Cancer Drugs	\$43	\$43	\$44	\$45	\$46
Public Dental Care	—	\$670	\$818	\$985	\$1,015
Ontario Benefits	—	—	\$574	\$574	\$574
50% of Net Transit Operating Costs	\$809	\$825	\$842	\$859	\$876
Northern Rail Strategy	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
½ Social Housing Repair Backlog	\$434	\$434	—	—	—

## NDP MEDIUM TERM FISCAL OUTLOOK (\$ MILLIONS)

based on government assumptions in the 2018 Budget

	YEAR ONE 2018-19 (F)	YEAR TWO 2019-20 (F)	YEAR THREE 2020-21 (F)	YEAR FOUR 2021-22 (F)	YEAR FIVE 2022-23 (F)
<b>ADDITIONAL SPENDING</b>					
Operational Funding for Supportive Housing	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250
Cooperative Housing Development Fund	\$3	—	—	—	—
Unfreezing College and University Funding	\$101	\$203	\$308	\$415	\$523
College and University Faculty Renewal	\$80	\$160	\$240	\$240	\$240
Student Loans to Grants	\$449	\$467	\$486	\$505	\$526
OSAP Interest Payment Forgiveness	\$112	—	—	—	—
Affordable Childcare	\$375	\$1,141	\$2,790	\$3,259	\$3,791
Paid Domestic Violence Leave	\$60	\$61	\$62	\$64	\$65
Raising OW and ODSP Rates	\$800	\$1,720	\$2,230	\$2,275	\$2,320
Friendship Centres programming	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	—
Mercury Treatment Centre	\$3	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
Mercury Disability Benefits	\$12	—	—	—	—
Raise the Cap on the Risk Management Program	\$50	\$100	\$175	\$175	\$175
First Nations Policing	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30
Parole and Probation Officers	\$15	\$15	\$16	\$16	\$16
A Crisis is not a Crime	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Solving Cold Cases	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
Properly Fund the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund	\$45	\$46	\$47	\$48	\$49
End Funding Freeze for Libraries	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
Library/Museum Pass	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3
Better Ontario Fund	\$100	\$100	\$100	—	—
Anti-Racism Fund	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Expanding Rural and Northern Broadband	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
<b>Total Additional Spending</b>	<b>\$5,356</b>	<b>\$9,077</b>	<b>\$12,486</b>	<b>\$13,997</b>	<b>\$15,814</b>
<b>TOTAL SPENDING</b>	<b>\$158,056</b>	<b>\$166,277</b>	<b>\$173,786</b>	<b>\$179,931</b>	<b>\$185,378</b>

## NDP MEDIUM TERM FISCAL OUTLOOK (\$ MILLIONS)

based on government assumptions in the 2018 Budget

	YEAR ONE 2018-19 (F)	YEAR TWO 2019-20 (F)	YEAR THREE 2020-21 (F)	YEAR FOUR 2021-22 (F)	YEAR FIVE 2022-23 (F)
<b>BASE REVENUE</b>					
Base Taxation Revenue <sup>1</sup>	\$103,539	\$108,057	\$112,356	\$117,116	\$122,104
Government of Canada Transfers	\$26,006	\$25,700	\$26,800	\$27,202	\$27,610
Government Business Enterprises minus Hydro One Dividends	\$5,046	\$5,754	\$6,354	\$7,120	\$7,974
Other Non-Tax Revenue	\$17,582	\$17,700	\$18,000	\$18,234	\$18,471
<b>Base Revenue</b>	<b>\$152,173</b>	<b>\$157,211</b>	<b>\$163,510</b>	<b>\$169,671</b>	<b>\$176,159</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL REVENUE</b>					
Personal Income Tax Increase on High Income Earners	\$606	\$642	\$679	\$720	\$762
Raise General Corporate Income Tax on Profitable Corporations	—	\$1,357	\$1,391	\$2,129	\$2,171
Limit Employer Health Tax Exemption to Small Business	—	\$159	\$166	\$363	\$378
Luxury Car Tax	\$12	\$12	\$12	\$12	\$12
Fairness in the Business Education Tax <sup>2</sup>	—	\$269	\$358	\$538	\$1,075
Value Tax on Tobacco	\$233	\$233	\$233	\$400	\$400
Revenue Integrity <sup>2</sup>	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425
Housing Speculation Tax	\$168	\$671	\$671	\$671	\$671
<b>Total Additional Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,443</b>	<b>\$3,766</b>	<b>\$3,936</b>	<b>\$5,257</b>	<b>\$5,894</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$153,616</b>	<b>\$160,978</b>	<b>\$167,446</b>	<b>\$174,928</b>	<b>\$182,053</b>

- 1 Net of mining tax revenue sharing with First Nations commitment valued at \$218 million over five years (estimate)
- 2 Estimates based on forecasts from the 2012 Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services. These are estimates that may not fully reflect subsequent government policy changes or implementations but are based on the latest and best available public information



## NDP MEDIUM TERM FISCAL OUTLOOK (\$ MILLIONS)

based on government assumptions in the 2018 Budget

	YEAR ONE 2018-19 (F)	YEAR TWO 2019-20 (F)	YEAR THREE 2020-21 (F)	YEAR FOUR 2021-22 (F)	YEAR FIVE 2022-23 (F)
<b>SPENDING REALLOCATIONS RECOMMENDED BY ONTARIO'S AUDITOR GENERAL</b>					
Enforce Office Accommodation Standard	–	\$58	\$87	\$174	\$174
Reduce use of external IT consultants	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Improved turnover of vacant provincial buildings	\$5	\$6	\$9	\$19	\$19
Renegotiate LTC dispensing fees to match other provinces	\$144	\$144	\$144	\$144	\$144
Renegotiating generic drug costs to hospital levels	\$271	\$271	\$271	\$271	\$271
Public sector benefit plan savings from pharmacare	–	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
<b>TOTAL SPENDING REALLOCATIONS</b>	<b>\$430</b>	<b>\$539</b>	<b>\$571</b>	<b>\$668</b>	<b>\$668</b>
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>\$157,627</b>	<b>\$165,738</b>	<b>\$173,214</b>	<b>\$179,263</b>	<b>\$184,710</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$153,616</b>	<b>\$160,978</b>	<b>\$167,446</b>	<b>\$174,928</b>	<b>\$182,053</b>
<b>Total Reserve</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$700</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$(4,711)</b>	<b>\$(5,460)</b>	<b>\$(6,468)</b>	<b>\$(5,035)</b>	<b>\$(3,357)</b>



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