

**McGuinty Liberal Government Report Card
Update on Government Commitments
October 2007 – September 2011**

The following table lists RNAO's key expectations for the second term of the McGuinty Liberal Government, October 2007 to October 2011. The chart indicates what RNAO asked in its 2007 Platform, what the Ontario Liberal Party committed to during the October 2007 election, and achievements as of September 2011, on the eve of the October 6, 2011 election. The RNAO will continue to monitor closely and help the Government make the commitments reality for the remainder of its mandate. The table is based on RNAO's 2007 Pre-Election platform and that of the Ontario Liberal Party. Only those commitments that address demands in RNAO's own platform are included. Numbers in brackets indicate the platform page on which the commitment is made; when the source is a costing document, the reference appears in the following form: (c.7) to indicate page 7. Additional references are listed at the end. Unless otherwise specified, expenditure commitments are annual levels that would be reached after four years.

<u>RNAO Position</u>	<u>LIBERAL PLATFORM COMMITMENTS</u>	<u>STATUS REPORT September 2011</u>
Social Determinants of Health		
Increase the minimum wage and enforce labour standards	Increase the minimum wage to \$10.25 by 2010 (33)	<p>General minimum wage was raised to \$9.50 per hour on March 31, 2009 and \$10.25 per hour on March 31, 2010. (B3, 5). http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/info/minimumwage/</p> <p>Task force to eliminate the backlog of employment standards complaints has reduced the backlog by more than two thirds. Backlog should be eliminated by March 2012. http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/news/pdf/2011/2011-63.pdf</p> <p>Employment Standards Amendment Act (Temporary Help Agencies), 2009 was passed on May 6, 2009, to ensure that temporary help agency employees are being treated fairly. These changes to the ESA are a component of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy. Employment</p>

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		<p>Protection for Foreign Nationals Act came into force March 22, 2010 with new protections for foreign live-in caregivers.</p>
<p>Increase Dangerously Low Social Assistance Rates</p>	<p>Build a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy around the Ontario Child Benefit. (18)</p>	<p>In March 2008 the government announced it would phase in the Ontario Child Benefit over 5 years: maximum annual OCB payment per child was \$600 in 2008, to rise to \$1,100 in 2011 (B 49).</p> <p>Phase-in of the Ontario Child Benefit was accelerated by two years, providing up to \$1,100 annually per child in July 2009. (B2 36)</p> <p>For Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program recipients, the basic adult allowance and maximum shelter allowance was increased by two per cent in 2008-2009 (B 50), two per cent in 2009-2010. (B2 37) and one per cent in 2010-2011 (B 3 41). A single person on OW now has a monthly income of \$592 and a single person on ODSP's monthly income is \$1,053. (ISAC FS)</p> <p>The 2010 Budget announced that the Special Diet Allowance would be moved from MCSS to MOHLTC as a Nutritional Supplement Program (B3 43). Subsequently it was decided that some Special Diet revisions would come into effect in April 2011 and the entire program would be reviewed more carefully as part of the Social Assistance Review. (MCSS SD)</p> <p>A comprehensive review of the social assistance system was launched in early 2011 with Commissioners Frances Lankin and Munir Sheikh. It will report by June 2012. The terms of reference for this review were informed by the Social Assistance Review Advisory Committee's June 2010 Report. (MCSS CR)</p>



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	Upload the full cost of Ontario Disability support program and Ontario drug benefit program relieving \$900 million dollars a year in cost pressures from local governments (36)	The Poverty Reduction Act (Bill 152) was passed into law with all-party support on May 6, 2009. (LAO) The government has tabled Annual Reports in Dec 2009 and Dec 2010 as stipulated in the Poverty Reduction Act. (OPRS) Government announced it would upload the municipal cost of the Ontario Drug Benefit program in January 2008 and begin uploading ODSP in 2009. When fully implemented in 2011, upload would save municipalities over \$900 million per year (B 42) http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/ompf/2011/

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<p>Implement Health and Social Policies that Support Children:</p> <p>*Maintain an Ontario Child Benefit raising the living standard of low-income families with children under 18</p> <p>*Stabilize and enhance Healthy Babies, Healthy Children and Best Start program funding in the not-for-profit sector.</p>	<p>Through the Ontario Child Benefit, provide up to \$1,100 per child to lower-income families to help them get ahead (33)</p> <p>Work with partners to develop indicators and targets to measure and address child poverty (18)</p> <p>Launch a multi-pronged campaign to reduce the rate of childhood obesity (24)</p> <p>Double funding for our community use of schools program, so that space for after-school activities is affordable for all Ontario families and free in communities that need it most (8)</p> <p>Provide tax incentives to encourage Ontarians to stay active in their daily lives, including a break on provincial sales tax on bicycles and bike helmets and tax credits for families</p>	<p>Budget 2010 affirmed the government's commitment to increase the Ontario Child Benefit from \$1,100 to \$1,300 per child by 2013. (B3 39). At the same time, social assistance benefits for people with children were restructured downward. (25 in 5 Network 13)</p> <p>March 2008 Budget announced one- time \$30 million funding for capital projects to support community agencies that provide services to children and vulnerable populations (B 51).</p> <p>Government's March 2008 Budget announced \$10 million annually for a childhood obesity strategy (B 64).</p> <p>Government announced increased funding for Community Use of Schools program by \$13 million in 2008-2009. Government will double the existing \$20 million funding for this program to more than \$40 million in 2009-2010 (B 57).</p> <p>Temporary retail sales tax exemption for bicycles and related safety equipment (B 139).</p> <p>Physical education was among the programs to be funded by new \$10 million Program Enhancement Grant in 2008-2009 (B. 57).</p> <p>Government announced an additional \$32 million over three years to its annual \$8.5 million for the Student Nutrition Program (B 47, 64).</p> <p>Government announced it would invest \$135 million over 3 years, starting in 2008-2009, to improve and enhance the delivery of urgent dental care</p>

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	<p>with children enrolled in organized physical activities (24)</p> <p>Require that healthy food be served in all school cafeterias and expand the number of intramural activities available to students (24)</p> <p>Make schools healthier: ban trans fats from all school cafeterias, prescribe a healthier menu that conforms to the new Canada Food Guide and create an Ontario Fitness Challenge program to fight childhood obesity (8)</p> <p>Expand family literacy centres across the province, so families from all backgrounds can help their children arrive at school ready to learn (7)</p> <p>Expand the successful Pathways to Education</p>	<p>services to children in low-income families (B 47, 64).</p> <p>Bill 69, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2008 received Royal Assent on June 18, 2008. This Amendment prohibits smoking or lighted tobacco in a motor vehicle when a person under 16 years of age is present.</p> <p>Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008, received Royal Assent on April 27, 2008. This Bill amends the Education Act to add provisions regulating the trans fat content of food and beverages sold in school cafeterias.</p> <p>Government announced in March 2008 budget that it would increase the number of Parenting and Family Literacy Centres by 34 with an additional investment of \$2 million in 2008-2009 to help prepare children for successful school entry. (B 48).</p> <p>The federal government ceased funding for 8,500 child care spaces. Ont. Gov't announced \$63.5 million annual investment in child care subsidies to fill funding gap. (B 3 39)</p> <p>Following recommendations of the Pascal Report, the government introduced full day learning for 4 and 5 year olds in nearly in 600 schools in September 2010. (B 3 38). In June 2010 it was announced that more than 200 more schools will over the program starting Sep 2011. (MOE)</p>



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	program, to give more students from at risk neighbourhoods a fair shot at success (7)	

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Environmental Determinants of Health		
<p>Promote Clean Green Electricity and Address Climate Change</p> <p>Shift energy policy toward energy conservation.</p> <p>Increase reliance on renewable energy</p>	<p>Provide financial assistance to communities to help save energy and reduce emissions that cause climate change (28)</p> <p>Build more rapid transit, with Move Ontario 2020, the largest transit expansion in Canadian history (28)</p>	<p>Ontario is on target to meet its conservation goal to reduce peak demand by 6,300 MW by 2025, including 1,700 in peak demand savings in the past five years (the equivalent of taking over 500,000 homes off the grid). (Government of Ontario. (2010). <i>Building Our Clean Energy Future: Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan</i>. Author, 37-38).</p> <p>More than 1,500 MW of clean, renewable energy has come on line since 2003, enough to power more than 400,000 homes. Introduced the <i>Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009</i> that sparked growth in wind, solar, hydro and bioenergy and helped build a clean-energy manufacturing base in Ontario. (Government of Ontario. (2010). <i>Building Our Clean Energy Future: Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan</i>. Author, 7).</p> <p>Since 2003 the Government has provided \$10.8 billion to support public transit, totaling 100 million more municipal transit trips, representing about 83 million car trips not taken on Ontario roads. (B4 13)</p>
<p>Stop coal burning at power plants by</p>	<p>Make our energy greener and cleaner, with a long-term</p>	<p>Eight coal units have closed since 2003, including four units at Lakeview (announced by the previous government), two units at Nanticoke and two</p>

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2009	<p>energy plan. Replace coal by doubling renewables and doubling conservation (28)</p> <p>Continue to replace coal-fired electricity in Ontario. Eliminate the next third by the end of 2011 and phase it out completely by the end of 2014 (29)</p>	<p>units at Lambton. Use of the dirty coal-fired plants is down by 70 per cent since 2003. Two additional units at Nanticoke will close by the end of 2011. Atikokan and Thunder Bay units will be converted to cleaner fuel sources by 2013. All coal-fired plants, including remaining plants at Nanticoke and Lambton, will be closed by the end of 2014. (Government of Ontario. (2010). <i>Building Our Clean Energy Future: Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan</i>. Author, 20-21).</p>
Cancel new Nuclear plant plans		<p>The Government remains committed to use nuclear power for about 50 per cent of Ontario's energy supply – a capacity of about 12,000 MW. This will come from building new nuclear reactors at Darlington (2,000 MW) and refurbishing and modernizing existing Darlington and Bruce sites. (Government of Ontario. (2010). <i>Building Our Clean Energy Future: Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan</i>. Author. 23-25.)</p>
Collaborate with partners like the Canadian Cancer Society to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reduce environmental, household and occupational carcinogens		



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Ban Non-Essential Use of Pesticides	Ban the cosmetic use of pesticides across the province (29)	Bill 64 to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides received Royal Assent on June 18, 2008. On March 4, 2009, Cabinet approved the toughest cosmetic pesticide regulations in North America; came into effect on Earth Day, April 22, 2009.



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Strengthen Medicare		
Accelerate Primary Health Care Reform	<p>Establish 25 more nurse-led clinics (22)</p> <p>Deliver access to a family doctor to 500,000 more Ontarians (22)</p> <p>\$60 million for 100 more medical spaces (c. 10)</p> <p>Deliver 50 more Family Health Teams over the next four years, targeting areas like rural and northern Ontario, where doctors are harder to find (p. 22). \$75 million</p>	<p>Ontario became the first province to introduce nurse practitioner-led clinics. In addition to the initial clinic in Sudbury, 25 additional NP-led clinics will be operational by 2012, providing access to primary care for more than 40,000 Ontarians. (B4 98).</p> <p>The Government created 200 Family Health Teams (FHTs) to provide comprehensive primary care to over three million Ontarians. (B4 98)</p>

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<p>Focus on Chronic Disease Management</p> <p>Increase home care expenditures by 30% by 2010 to support persons with chronic conditions and/or older persons to remain active members of our communities.</p>	<p>Support Ontario seniors who want to stay in their own homes with an easy-to-access basket of services, improve the level of care in long-term care homes with 2,000 new nurses, build 35,000 long-term care beds over 10 years and provide financial support for those caring for elderly family members (23)</p> <p>Continue to enhance the strength of mental health and addictions services with increased funding and strong provincial policy direction (22)</p>	<p>The Government invested \$1.1 billion over four years, beginning in 2007, under the Aging at Home Strategy, to support seniors and caregivers. There are 58 per cent more clients receiving home care since 2003. An additional \$1.4 billion has been spent in long-term care since 2003, adding 9,000 more beds and increasing staff in homes by 7,000. (B4 101)</p> <p>In June 2011, the government released its long-term, comprehensive mental health and addictions strategy focusing on early intervention, coordinated and effective promotion, prevention and community support and treatment programs. http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/release/2011/jun/nr_20110622_1.aspx By 2013-14, funding to support the strategy will grow to \$93 million per year. (B4 48).</p>

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Nursing Workforce as a Priority		
Increase Ontario's RN's Workforce by 9,000 FTE's by 2010	Hire 9,000 more nurses (22). \$280 million annually to meet nursing commitments by fourth year (c. 10).	Using latest CNO data, at the midpoint of government's second mandate (2008-2010), there was a net gain of 5,579 nurses, which is 62 per cent of the 9,000 target (1,951 RNs, 618 NPs, 3,010 RPNs). In 2011 Budget, the government says it has supported the creation of 10,000 nursing positions and invested over \$770 million since 2003. (B4 99).
Meet the goal of 70 per cent of all nurses working full-time	Meet our goal to have 70 per cent of nurses working full-time (22)	CNO data for 2010: RNs in general class: 65.5 per cent FT; NPs:82.8 per cent FT; RNs including NPs: 65.7 per cent
Guarantee Full-Time Employment for All-New RN Graduates Commit to 80/20 Program for RNs 55 Years and Older	Guarantee jobs for new nursing grads (22) Invest in healthy work environments for nurses (22)	The Government continues to be committed to the Nursing Graduate Guarantee 2010-11 budget - \$87.6M. Late Career Nurse Initiative budget for 2010-11 = \$8M. (B4 99)
Equalize Remuneration for nurses across sectors		
Enhance Roles and Utilization of NP's		Bill 179, the <i>Regulated Health Professions Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009</i> , amendments to Regulation 965 of the Public Hospitals Act and related amendments expanded the scope of practice of NPs to improve patient outcomes, access and flow by authorizing NPs to admit and discharge in-patients; prescribe, dispense, sell and compound drugs; set or caste a fracture of a bone or dislocation of a joint; and other controlled acts.

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Support Expanded Roles for RNs		Bill 179, the Regulated Health Professions Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009, amended the Nursing Act to allow RNs to treat by means of psychotherapy and dispense a drug (when proclaimed into effect).
Increase Nursing Enrolments		<p>Budget 2011 funded over 60,000 additional post-secondary students by 2015-16, of which 15 per cent are allocated to nursing programs for RNs. (B4 40, briefing).</p> <p>According to RN intake data from Ministry of Training, College and Universities, 2009-10: 3,543 collaborative BScN, 802 compressed BScN; total = 4,345. Highest since 2001-2, the last intake for a college RN diploma.</p>
Integrate Internationally Educated Nurses who choose to make Ontario their home	Better compete for global talent by creating the Opportunities Ontario Program to speed up the immigration process for highly skilled professionals and international students (17)	<p>CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) continues to assist IENs to prepare to qualify to practice in Ontario. http://www.care4nurses.org/about/</p> <p>Access Centre of HealthForceOntario continues to provide advice to IENs (HFO1)</p>



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Increase Fiscal Capacity		
<p>Increase tax revenues to ensure government can pay for essential health and social services</p> <p>Phase in a carbon tax and other environmental taxes</p>	<p>Continue to balance the budget and pay down the provincial debt (19)</p> <p>Help Ontario businesses stay competitive by eliminating the capital tax and reducing provincial property taxes on business (19)[Based on Liberal fiscal plan data in platform costing, revenue would grow 16.6% over four years, while expenditures would grow 16.1%, with both lagging behind GDP growth of 20.1% (c. 5, c. 6)</p>	<p>Deficit in 2010-2011 was forecast to be \$18.7 B, but was in fact \$14 B. (http://www.thestar.com/printarticle/1043555 .</p> <p>The 2011-2012 deficit is forecast at \$16.3 B. (B4 xvii).</p> <p>Program spending for 2011-12 projected to increase from \$122.9 B. to \$124.1 B. (B4 195).</p> <p>Any current recovery in revenue due to economic recovery, not due to new revenue sources. (B4 `95)</p> <p>No carbon or environmental taxes.</p>

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(B2) 2009 Ontario Budget: Confronting the Challenge: Building Our Economic Future: Budget Papers March 2009

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(B2-SH) 2009 Ontario Budget: Sector Highlights. March 2009.

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(B3) 2010 Ontario Budget Open Ontario: Ontario's Plans for Jobs and Growth Budget Papers

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Additional Notes:

“Your government will hire 9,000 more nurses, work towards its goal to have 70 per cent of nurses working full time, guarantee jobs for new nursing graduates, invest in healthy work environments for nurses, and establish 25 more nurse-led clinics.” Speech from the Throne: Moving Forward the Ontario Way. November 29, 2007, p. 9.