

Ontario 2007 Provincial Elections Commitments RNAO will monitor

The following table lists RNAO's key expectations for the second term of the McGuinty Government. The chart indicates what RNAO asked, what we got and what we will be closely monitoring and helping Government to make a reality. The table is based on RNAO's Pre-Election platform and that of the Ontario Liberal Party.ⁱ 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, it the reference appears in the following form: (c. 7) to indicate page 7. Unless otherwise specified, expenditure commitments are annual levels that would be reached after four years.

RNAO Position	Liberal Platform commitments	Status report October 2008	Status report October 2009	Status report October 2010
Increase the minimum wage and enforce labour standards	Increase the minimum wage to \$10.25 by 2010 (33)			
Increase Dangerously Low Social Assistance Rates	Build a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy around the Ontario Child Benefit. (18) 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)			

<p>Increase Affordable Housing</p>	<p>Create a long-term strategy for affordable housing. We will ensure this strategy contains a mix of non-profit and co-operative housing, and takes advantage of creative financial options (18)</p> <p>Join with financial institutions to create a new program to help low-income Ontarians build equity and save for a home, their or their children's education, or to start their own business (18)</p> <p>Create a new homeowners grant for seniors who have trouble paying their property taxes, to help them stay at home (33)</p>			
<p>Implement Health and Social Policies that Support Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an Ontario Child Benefit raising the living standard of low-income families with children under 18 • Stabilize and enhance Healthy Babies, Healthy Children and Best Start program funding in the not-for-profit sector. 	<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>We will 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,</p>			

	<p>including a break on provincial sales tax on bicycles and bike helmets and tax credits for families 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>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 program, to give more students from at risk neighbourhoods a fair shot at success (7)</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>			
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<p>Promote Clean Green Electricity and Address Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift energy policy toward energy conservation. 	<p>Reduce emissions that cause climate change by 6% below 1990 levels by 2014, 15% below by 2020 and 80% by 2050 (28)</p> <p>Make our energy greener and cleaner, with a long-term energy plan that will replace coal by doubling renewables and doubling conservation (28)</p> <p>Make sure all new schools will conform to better energy efficiency standards and environmental education will be part of every child's learning (8)</p> <p>Provide rebates and tax incentives for Ontarians to buy energy efficient appliances and make energy saving investments in their home (28)</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>			
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<p>Stop coal burning at power plants by 2009</p>	<p>Make our energy greener and cleaner, with a long-term energy plan. Our plan will replace coal by doubling renewables and doubling conservation (28)</p> <p>Continue our plan to replace coal-fired electricity in Ontario. We will eliminate the next third by the end of 2011 and phase it out completely by the end of 2014 (29)</p>			
<p>Cancel new nuclear plant plans</p>				
<p>Increase reliance on renewable energy</p>	<p>[See item above about doubling renewables and conservation]</p>			

<p>Protect Ontarians from Toxins and Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Pollution and Cancer Prevention Act that requires large users of toxic substances to develop plans to reduce toxins; expands public access to information about toxins in their environment; and establishes a technical office to assist companies and workers to reduce or eliminate toxins; and to assist citizens to monitor pollution plans. • Collaborate with partners like the Canadian Cancer Society to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reduce environmental, household and occupational carcinogens 	<p>Create a tough new toxic reduction law that requires companies that emit toxic pollution to reduce their emissions over time (29)</p> <p>Work with Cancer Care Ontario and the Ontario Medical Association to identify, target and reduce the number of cancer-causing agents released into our environment (29)</p> <p>Help families spend more time together, by reducing gridlock across the GTA with Move Ontario 2020, our \$17.5 billion rapid transit plan (36)</p>			
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Ban Non-Essential Use of Pesticides	Ban the cosmetic use of pesticides across the province (29)			
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<p>Protect and Expand Medicare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommit to a universally accessible single-tier health care system, and uphold the ban on user fees for necessary health services 	<p>...Increase early detection and facilitate the effective treatment of cancer. We will focus on improving breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening rates and cover the cost of both the PSA test to detect prostate cancer and the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer (p. 24). Cancer screening/vaccination \$100 million (c. 10)</p> <p>Continue to enhance the strength of mental health and addictions services with increased funding and strong provincial policy direction (22)</p> <p>Provide patients with more choice regarding where and when they receive treatment for conditions like cancer and cardiac disease (23)</p> <p>Create an electronic health record by 2015 and give Ontarians control over the information contained in it (p. 23). \$250 million (c. 10)</p> <p>Increase the Northern Health Travel Grant and accommodation costs allowance (23)</p> <p>Support dental services for low-income Ontario families (18)</p>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevent for-profit clinics from delivering necessary health-care services				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reject the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement and others that limit government's ability to regulate in the public interest.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place a moratorium on public-private partnerships (P3s) in public hospitals.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote expanding Medicare to include pharmacare.				

<p>Accelerate Primary Health Care Reform</p>	<p>Establish 25 more nurse-led clinics (22)</p> <p>Deliver access to a family doctor to 500,000 more Ontarians (22) \$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>Expand our progress on wait times to more services: emergency room visits, children’s surgery and general surgery. Experts will tell us what wait times should be and we will meet or beat those targets (22). \$100 million (c. 10)</p> <p>Invest \$100M in growth funding for hospitals in our fastest growing communities (22)</p>			
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<p>Focus on Chronic Disease Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Help the growing number of Ontarians living with diabetes, through a mix of prevention, technology, personal planning and access to specialized resources and health professionals — all designed to improve health and reduce health care costs (24). \$150 million (c. 10)</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>Increase Ontario's RN Workforce by 9,000 FTEs by 2010</p>	<p>Hire 9,000 more nurses (22) \$280 million annually to meet nursing commitments by fourth year (c. 10)</p>			
<p>Commit to 70 Per Cent Full-Time Employment for All RNs</p>	<p>Meet our goal to have 70% of nurses working full-time (22)</p>			
<p>Guarantee Full-Time Employment for All New RN Graduates</p>	<p>Guarantee jobs for new nursing grads (22)</p>			

Commit to 80/20 Program for RNs 55 Years and Older	Invest in healthy work environments for nurses (22)			
Equalize Remuneration Across Sectors				
Enhance Roles and Utilization of NPs				
Support Expanded Roles for RNs				
Increase Nursing Enrolments				

<p>Integrate Internationally Educated Nurses who Choose to Make Ontario Their Home</p>	<p>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> <p>Create an International Ontario Strategy to attract skilled people from around the world, including posting Ontario immigration representatives in our existing International marketing centres offices, located in key cities around the world (17)</p> <p>Ease the transition into Ontario by creating a new Orientation Ontario course, to help newcomers get off on the right foot. We will support the course with a call centre to assist newcomers with follow-up support (17)</p> <p>Help newcomers upgrade their skills by expanding the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to include books, language courses and bridging programs (17)</p> <p>Help newcomers access services more easily by concentrating services in public schools located in neighbourhoods with high newcomer populations (17)</p>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase tax revenues to ensure government can pay for essential health and social services • Phase in a carbon tax and other environmental taxes 	<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)</p> <p>[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>			
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ⁱ PC Platform: http://www.ontariopc.com/documents/Plan_for_Ontario's_Future_060907.pdf#cover
PC Costing: http://www.ontariopc.com/documents/Fiscal_Plan_For_A_Better_Ontario.pdf
Liberal Platform: http://server.ontarioliberal.ca/OLPFinal/upload/dir/D72110%20Dalton%20En_Singles2.pdf
Liberal Costing: <http://www.ontarioliberal.ca/upload/dir/CostingMovingForwardTogetherEnglish.pdf>
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