



Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers
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Speaking out for health. Speaking out for nursing.

Ontario 2007 Provincial Election Government Commitments RNAO Will Monitor Status Report – March 2009

The following table lists RNAO's key expectations for the second term of the McGuinty Government. The chart indicates what RNAO asked, what the Ontario Liberal Party committed to during the October 2007 election, achievements after the first year of the four-year mandate, and announcements in the provincial budget, March 26, 2009. The RNAO will continue to closely monitor and help the Government make the commitments reality. The table is based on RNAO's 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. 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>Ontario Budget March 2008</u>	<u>STATUS REPORT OCTOBER 2008</u>	<u>Ontario Budget March 2009</u>
Social Determinants of Health				
Increase the minimum wage and enforce labour standards	Increase the minimum wage to \$10.25 by 2010 (33)	Minimum wage is currently \$8.75 per hour. It will be raised by 75 cents in March 2009 and 2010 to reach \$10.25 per hour on March 31, 2010 (B 51)		Minimum wage was raised by 75 cents to \$9.50 per hour on March 31, 2009. It will be raised to \$10.25 per hour on March 31, 2010. (B2 38)



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Increase Dangerously Low Social Assistance Rates	<p>Build a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy around the Ontario Child Benefit. (18)</p> <p>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>	<p>Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, chaired by Deb Matthews, "will develop a focused poverty reduction strategy with measures, indicators and reasonable targets by the end of 2008" (B 47).</p> <p>Ontario Child Benefit is being phased in over 5 years: maximum annual OCB payment per child is \$600 in 2008, rising to \$1,100 in 2011 (B 49).</p> <p>For Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program recipients, the basic adult allowance and maximum shelter allowance will increase by two per cent in 2008-2009 (B 50).</p> <p>Government uploaded the municipal cost of the Ontario Drug Benefit program in January 2008 and will begin uploading ODSP in 2009. When fully implemented in 2011, upload will save municipalities over \$900 million per year (B 42)</p>	<p>Income Security Advocacy Centre: "Even with the NCBS/OCB, total incomes for families on Ontario Works are still more than 30% below LICO, singles on OW are currently 40% below LICO, and singles on ODSP are 31% below LICO" (ISAC 8).</p> <p>Premier McGuinty has said that Ontario's poverty reduction plan will be released by the end of the year but that "progress on implementing it will likely be slower than expected" given the "state of the economy." (Gillespie)</p> <p>Premier McGuinty has promised to upload provincial programs, including welfare and social housing, that were previously downloaded to the municipalities. This process has been described as "stalled." (Toronto Star)</p>	<p>Phase-in of the Ontario Child Benefit will be accelerated by two years, providing up to \$1,100 annually per child in July 2009. (B2 36)</p> <p>The adult basic allowance and maximum shelter allowance will increase by 2% in November 2009 for Ontario Disability Support Program recipients and in December 2009 for Ontario Works recipients (B2 37).</p> <p>A 2% increase means a monthly increase of \$11.44 for a single person on social assistance at \$572 a month. Despite "overwhelming evidence that it's impossible to pay the rent and buy anything resembling healthy food" at this rate, the budget was silent on the \$100 monthly food supplement advocated by RNAO and anti-poverty activists (Toronto Star).</p>

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Implement Health and Social Policies that Support Children <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>Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, chaired by Deb Matthews, "will develop a focused poverty reduction strategy with measures, indicators and reasonable targets by the end of 2008" (B 47).</p> <p>Ontario Child Benefit is being phased in over 5 years: maximum annual OCB payment per child is \$600 in 2008, rising to \$1,100 in 2011 (B 49).</p> <p>Government will invest an additional \$32 million over three years to its annual \$8.5 million for the Student Nutrition Program (B 47, 64).</p> <p>Government will invest \$135 million over 3 years, starting in 2008-2009, to improve and enhance the delivery of urgent dental care services to children in low-income families (B 47, 64).</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>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>Phase-in of the Ontario Child Benefit will be accelerated by two years, providing up to \$1,100 annually per child in July 2009. (B2 36)</p> <p>Ontario will match federal new housing infrastructure initiatives, including a total of more than \$700 million over two years for social housing rehabilitation and energy retrofits, more than \$360 million for new affordable housing for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities, and \$175 million for new homes for low-income families. An additional \$5 million annually will provide stable funding for municipal rent banks to help low-income tenants keep their homes (B2 37).</p>



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	<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 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>Government will invest \$10 million annually in a childhood obesity strategy (B 64).</p> <p>Government will increase 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 is among the programs to be funded by new \$10 million Program Enhancement Grant in 2008-2009 (B. 57).</p>		



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	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)	Government will 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). One time \$30 million funding for capital projects to support community agencies that provide services to children and vulnerable populations (B 51).		

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Environmental Determinants of Health				
Promote Clean Green Electricity and Address Climate Change <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>"In June 2007, the Premier announced strict greenhouse gas emission targets that will reduce Ontario emissions to 6% below 1990 levels by 2014, 15% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050" (B 20).</p> <p>Two initiatives to help meet targets identified as 1) closure of Lakefield coal-fired generating station in 2005 and prohibiting use of coal at Nanticoke, Atikokan, Lambton and Thunder Bay after Dec. 31, 2014 expected to reduce GHG emissions by up to 30 megatonnes; 2) government's \$17.5 billion MoveOntario 2020 transit plan will reduce 10 megatonnes of GHC emissions (B 20).</p>		<p>\$390 million will be committed to match Ontario's share of the federal Green Infrastructure Fund to develop initiatives that assist in the implementation of the proposed <i>Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009</i>, including expediting the growth, transmission and distribution of clean, green energy. Initiatives will include an Emerging Technologies Fund, enhancing the Innovation Demonstration Fund, a strategy to help prepare workers for green-collar jobs, and new research to promote green economic development (B2 26,27).</p>



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	<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>The government's Conservation 20-year plan "begins with replacing coal-fired generation by 2014, reducing electricity demand by 6,300 megawatts or about 20% of projected peak demand, doubling the use of renewable energy" (B 11).</p> <p>Government will invest nearly \$4 million over 4 years to enhance modeling, monitoring and research capacity at the Ministry of Environment into the effects of climate change (B 21).</p> <p>Government proposes a RST exemption on qualifying new ENERGY Star household appliances and light bulb to the end of August 2009 (B 20)</p>		<p>Accelerate government's significant investments in public transportation and mass transit (B2 26). About \$3.5 billion will be spent on public transit infrastructure over two years, though slightly more, about \$3.7 billion, will be spent on highway construction (B2 10, Toronto Star).</p>



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Stop coal burning at power plants by 2009	Make our energy greener and cleaner, with a long-term energy plan. Our plan will replace coal by doubling renewables and doubling conservation (28) 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)	The government's Conservation 20-year plan "begins with replacing coal-fired generation by 2014, reducing electricity demand by 6,300 megawatts or about 20% of projected peak demand, doubling the use of renewable energy" (B 11). Closure of Lakefield coal-fired generating station in 2005 and prohibiting use of coal at Nanticoke, Atikokan, Lambton and Thunder Bay after Dec. 31, 2014 expected to reduce GHG emissions by up to 30 megatonnes (B 20).		Replacement of coal-fired generation will be complete by 2014. Coal use in Ontario is down by 40% since 2003 (B2 24).



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Increase reliance on renewable energy	See item above about doubling renewables and conservation]	The government's Conservation 20-year plan "begins with replacing coal-fired generation by 2014, reducing electricity demand by 6,300 megawatts or about 20% of projected peak demand, doubling the use of renewable energy" (B 11).		
Cancel new Nuclear plant plans				Government will move forward with a competitive process to select a nuclear reactor vendor for two new units at Ontario Power Generation's Darlington site. OPG began planning the refurbishment assessment for Darlington and is proceeding with the Pickering B refurbishment feasibility assessment (B2 27).

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<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. 	<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>	<p>The government will invest \$41 million over 4 years "to support the development of toxics legislation and toxics reduction strategy that will require companies that emit toxic substances to reduce their emissions over time; the government will work with Cancer Care Ontario and the Ontario Medical Association to identify, target and reduce the number of cancer-causing agents" (B 44).</p>	<p>On August 27, after consultation with stakeholders, the government released its discussion paper on toxic reduction legislation, with a 45-day comment period ending October 11. Environmental and health groups like the requirement for reporting and planning, but want more: reduction targets; establishment of a toxic use reduction institute funded by fees paid by users and emitters of toxics; provisions for safer alternatives; provisions to protect municipal toxic bylaws; explicit provision for the creation of a toxic use reduction institute; a faster phase-in; lower reporting thresholds; and coverage of more sectors.</p> <p>Collaboration with CCO and OMA has yet to start.</p>	<p>On April 7, 2009, the Minister of Environment introduced Bill 167, the Toxics Reduction Act, 2009. While providing a good framework to assist businesses in reducing reliance on harmful toxic substances, its effectiveness will depend on tough regulations. RNAO is advocating for amendments that will strengthen the Bill, including guaranteeing public's right to know about toxics in their environment, requiring business to use safe alternatives, aggressive targets to reduce toxic releases, and demonstrable progress before the next election.</p>
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Collaborate with partners like the Canadian Cancer Society to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reduce environmental, household and occupational carcinogens				
Ban Non-Essential Use of Pesticides	Ban the cosmetic use of pesticides across the province (29)	Government will allocate "over \$10 million over 4 years in support of the Province's plan to ban the use of non-essential pesticides..." (B 44).	Bill 64 to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides received Royal Assent on June 18, 2008. The intent is for legislation and regulation to be in place for the 2009 growing season. RNAO was pleased with the ban on sales and use, but was very disappointed in the override on municipal pesticide bylaws and a loophole allowing other uses to be permitted by regulation.	On March 4, 2009, Cabinet approved the toughest cosmetic pesticide regulations in North America, to come into effect on Earth Day, April 22, 2009.

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			<p>RNAO is lobbying to ensure that regulations are at least as strong as the strongest pesticide bylaws. In particular, RNAO is seeking to ensure that an exemption is not allowed for infestations. It also wants to ensure that the list of banned substances covers all chemical pesticides which represent risks to human health, and wants to see a phase-out of pesticide use on golf courses.</p>	
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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>Government will invest \$154 million over the next 3 years to build on the Province's cancer screening program to increase detection of breast, cervical and colorectal cancers. This includes covering the cost of the PSA test and extend HPV vaccination program (B. 64).</p> <p>Government will invest \$80 million over the next 3 years to improve mental health and addiction services...the government will be developing a comprehensive mental health and addictions strategy (B. 63).</p> <p>Government will invest \$20 million to support children with complex special needs, bringing total provincial spending on children's mental health to \$440 million annually (B. 63).</p>		
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	Create an electronic health record by 2015 and give Ontarians control over the information contained in it (p. 23). \$250 million (c. 10)	Government will invest \$135 million over 3 years, starting in 2008-2009, to improve and enhance the delivery of urgent dental care services to children in low-income families (B 47, 64). The government will work with public health units, community health centres, dentists, and dental hygienists to deliver prevention and treatment services for low-income Ontarians (B 47)		About \$2 billion will be invested in the next three years to implement eHealth initiatives including creation of an electronic health record by 2015 (B2 42, B2-SH 2).
<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. 				On April 1, 2009, the TILMA between Alberta and BC came into full effect, and the Ontario-Quebec Economic Partnership Agreement was nearing completion including a binding dispute resolution process based on TILMA. RNAO calls for the negotiations to be made public and for the Ontario government to reject financial penalties for disputes.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place a moratorium on public-private partnerships (P3s) in public hospitals.			Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and RNAO release study that suggests Ontario could end up paying \$585 million in higher costs for 14 AFP hospital projects rather than saving \$341 million (CCPA & RNAO).	More than 40 health infrastructure projects are underway in the hospital sector, with over 15 expected to be completed in 2009-2010. About one-half of the 40 projects, and six of the 15 are funded by public-private partnerships (P3s and AFPs). In 2009-10, \$3.2 billion will be spent on health infrastructure, climbing to \$3.9 billion in 2010-11 (B2 8,10)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote expanding Medicare to include pharmacare.				



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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>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>	<p>Government will invest \$38 million over three years to create 25 nurse-practitioner-led clinics by 2011-2012 (B 61).</p> <p>Government will invest \$53 million over three years to add 50 more Family Health Teams by 2011-2012, targeting underserviced and rural communities, in addition to the ongoing implementation of 150 Family Health Teams (B. 61).</p> <p>Government will invest \$180 million over 3 years to make continuous improvements in emergency-department wait-times and patient satisfaction (B. 63).</p> <p>Government will invest \$120 million over 3 years to help hospitals in areas experiencing high population growth to meet anticipated demand (B. 63).</p>	<p>Ontario Tackles ER Waits with \$109 million investment. This includes \$4.5 million for dedicated nurses to care for ER patients who arrive by ambulance to ease ambulance offload delays and \$4.5 million for new nurse-led outreach teams to provide more care for patients in long-term care homes to avoid transfer to the ER (MOHLTC May 30 2008).</p>	<p>\$35 million over two years to create an additional 22 NP-led clinics that "will begin to move forward this spring" to join the three new NP-led clinics already given the go-ahead in Belle River, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. Fifty more Family Health Teams are also planned over the next two years (B2-SH 3 5).</p> <p>\$361 million will be spent in 2009-10 to implement the comprehensive ER Wait Time strategy (B2-SH 3).</p> <p>Hospitals' net expenses will increase 3.5 per cent in 2009-10, including a 2.1 per cent increase in overall base funding formula. \$40 million will be available in 2009-10 for high-growth hospitals in our fastest growing communities to improve care and reduce wait times (B2-SH 3).</p>

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	COMMITMENTS	March 2008	OCTOBER 2008	March 2009
Focus on Chronic Disease Management <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>Government will invest \$190 million over 3 years to implement a Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Strategy, starting with diabetes (B 63).</p> <p>Government will invest more than \$700 million over 3 years to implement the Aging at Home Strategy to provide additional community services such as home care, supportive housing, and other community supports (B 62).</p> <p>Government will invest \$278 million over 3 years to address various program needs in long-term care homes (B 62).</p>	<p>Ontario is investing \$741 million over 4 years on a comprehensive diabetes strategy to prevent, manage, and treat diabetes (MOHLTC July 2008).</p>	<p>\$65 million, including \$39 million provided in 2008-09, will be invested in increased home care, personal support and homemaking services and enhanced integration between hospitals and Community Care Access Centres (B2-SH 3).</p> <p>\$223 million in 2009-10 for the Aging at Home Strategy to provide support to seniors and their caregivers, and ease Alternate Level of Care (ALC) pressures (B2-SH 3).</p> <p>Add 1,750 long-term care beds in 10 communities by 2012 (B2-SH 3).</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)	Government will invest more than \$500 million over 3 years towards hiring 9,000 nurses by 2011-2012 (B 61). "From this investment, 2,000 nurses will be hired in long-term care homes over the next 4 years, building on the 1,200 RPN positions announced in 2007" (B 61).	Tentative OMA agreement will provide "physicians in group practices with funding for up to 500 nurses, as part of the government's commitment to 9,000 new nurses" (MOHLTC September 2008).	The government says it has hired over 2,300 nurses since the fall of 2007. In 2009-10, "more than 900 nurses" will be hired, towards RNAO's minimum of 3,000 additional nurses in 2009-10 (B2-SH 5).
Meet the goal of 70% of all nurses working full-time	Meet our goal to have 70% of nurses working full-time (22)			Latest figure is 64.9% FT for RNs.
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)	Nursing Graduate Guarantee will be extended "to provide every new Ontario nursing graduate with an opportunity for full-time employment" at \$90 million in 2008-2009 (B 61)	More than 2,600 Ontario nursing graduates were matched with employers through the Nursing Graduate Guarantee. Preliminary data indicate 86% of those who complete program have secured full-time employment. (HF0 27)	NGG Initiative Continues.
Equalize Remuneration Across Sectors				
Enhance Roles and Utilization of NP's				

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Support Expanded Roles for RNs			Investment of \$15 million over 5 years to support Anna Maria de Souza Knowledge Transfer Center for Oncology Nursing at Princess Margaret Hospital for advanced education for oncology nurses (Office of the Premier, May 2008).	
Increase Nursing Enrolments		Existing initiatives include "expanding the total number of enrolment spaces from 150 to 200 over the next four years for nurse practitioners specializing in primary health care" (B 62).		
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)	"This Budget provides almost \$30 million more over 3 years to enhance English as a Second Language services for adult newcomers and support more bridge training" (B 8).	Access Centre of the HealthForceOntario Marketing and Recruiting Agency helps internationally educated health professionals work in Ontario's health care system (HFO 15). In March 2008, the Access Centre surpassed its target of 3,250 registered clients (HFO 27).	

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	<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>			
Increase Fiscal Capacity				
<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)[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>"With a \$0.6 billion surplus projected for 2007-2008, the Province is on track to exceed its planned fiscal target for the fourth year in a row and to achieve its third consecutive surplus. The Province remains resilient and is on track to post six consecutive balanced budgets between 2005-2006 and 2010-2011"</p> <p>(B 75)</p> <p>"While the average annual growth of expense is projected at 3.3% over the medium term, total revenue is forecast to</p>	<p>A deficit of \$3.9 billion is forecast for 2008-09, with a deficit of \$14.1 billion in 2009-10. (B2 83)</p> <p>Core program spending will increase by 12.5 per cent in 2009-10 over 2008-09 (B2 83).</p> <p>Health sector spending will increase by 4.7 per cent in 2009-10 (B2 83).</p> <p>Significant tax cuts and tax reforms in the 2009-10 budget include: \$4.5 billion in business tax cuts; \$10.6 billion in permanent personal tax cuts and direct payments to low and</p>	



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		increase by \$6.9 billion—from \$96.9 billion in 2008-2009 to \$103.8 billion in 2010-2011—yielding a higher average annual growth rate of 3.5%” (B 102).		moderate income Ontarians; and, implementation of a single, harmonized sales tax on July 1, 2010 (B2 107).
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<u>RNAO Position</u>	<u>LIBERAL PLATFORM COMMITMENTS</u>	<u>Ontario Budget March 2008</u>	<u>STATUS REPORT OCTOBER 2008</u>	<u>Ontario Budget March 2009</u>

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Additional Notes:

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