

Election Ontario 2007 Comparison of Four Major Political Party Platforms

Explanatory Note: The following table lists RNAO's key expectations for the next government and compares the four major Ontario political parties' positions on these issues. The table is based on the platforms and costings available from the four party websites.¹ Only those commitments that address demands in RNAO's own platform were 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. The NDP is not releasing its platform all at once, so only those promises that appear as Commitments on the NDP website are included. The NDP portion of this platform comparison will be updated as the NDP platform is released.

<u>RNAO Position</u>	<u>LIBERAL</u>	<u>PC</u>	<u>NDP</u>	<u>GREEN</u>
Social Determinants of Health				
Increase the minimum wage and enforce labour standards	Increase the minimum wage to \$10.25 by 2010 (33)	Set a realistic minimum wage that allows Ontarians at that income level to live in dignity. Seek advice annually on Ontario's minimum wage policy from social, economic, labour and business experts (15)	Immediately raise the minimum wage to \$10 and increase it after that to match inflation (http://ontariondp.com/node/1639) Close the loopholes in employment standards law and establish a 40 hour workweek (http://ontariondp.com/node/1719)	Increase the legislated minimum wage until a person working 40 hours per week at this wage earns more than the Statistics Canada poverty line, then index the minimum wage to the rate of inflation. Implement the proposed \$10.25 minimum wage by June 2008 (32) Introduce legislation giving government inspectors more powers to enforce labour laws (8) Introduce legislation and policies that reduce overtime (7)

				Introduce legislation to prohibit unpaid overtime (8)
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>	Increase social services spending by \$1 billion (c. 7)		<p>Introduce legislation to index Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) payments to the rate of inflation (32)</p> <p>Introduce legislation to set all welfare rates across the province at the low-income cut-off rate set by Statistics Canada for major urban centres, so that recipients can move to rural areas without penalty (32)</p> <p>Stop the provincial claw-back of the National Child Benefit Supplement (32)</p>
Increase Affordable Housing	<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</p>	<p>Increase supply of co-operative housing by leveraging the assets of existing co-ops, particularly in disadvantaged neighbourhoods (15)</p> <p>Provide municipal agencies supporting the homeless through the shelter system with the flexibility to use their funding to find permanent housing for the homeless (15)</p> <p>Revitalize vulnerable communities. Work with municipal and the private sector to extend these successful revitalization projects to other public housing projects in Toronto and other communities across Ontario (15)</p>	<p>Invest \$350 million in affordable housing (c. 2)</p> <p>The NDP Fair Deal for Affordable Housing includes (http://ontariondp.com/node/1718):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Affordable housing: to make sure lower and moderate income families have access to decent housing. <p>Specific targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10,000 new rent supplements at \$4450/unit. - 7,000 affordable units annually, including at least 1,500 co-op units; 750 supportive housing units; and another 500 units for seniors. 	Adjust Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program shelter allowances to reflect average local rents as defined by CMHC (32)

	home (33)		- Rent Control: to protect tenants from sky-rocketing rents and end “vacancy decontrol” so rents stay low even when a unit is vacated.	
<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, 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>Incremental increases in the Ontario Child Benefit amounting to \$170 million annually for the two years not covered by the government’s pre-election plan, [as part of the \$1 billion mentioned above in increased social spending] (c. 7)</p> <p>[See commitment on Healthy Babies, Healthy Children under Protect and Expand Medicare]</p> <p>Create an Open Schools program, enabling more schools to be open to their neighbourhoods for evening and weekend programs. We will also work with community groups to help more low-income children access healthy activities (8, 13)</p> <p>Increase compulsory physical activity right through high school, offering healthy recreational activities on evenings and weekends, establishing nutritional standards for school food, and promoting walking and biking to school (10)</p> <p>Continue to invest in early childhood education, building on the success of the early learning centres (10)</p>	<p>[Note commitment under social assistance to raise spending on children and social services.]</p> <p>\$250 million for students-at-risk, students with special needs and English-as-a Second Language (c. 3)</p> <p>Investing properly in community services for youth and mental health (http://ontariondp.com/node/1716) </p> <p>\$800 million for full-day senior and junior kindergarten (c. 3)</p> <p>\$55 million in Violence Against Women programming (c. 3)</p>	<p>Increase physical education and nutrition programs and make physical education courses mandatory in secondary school (28)</p> <p>Provide the promised \$300 million annually to provide non-profit, quality child care across the province (33)</p> <p>Guarantee that all \$97 million of federal funding designated for child care in Ontario is spent on providing non-profit publicly funded quality child care spaces (33)</p> <p>Support community programs, cultural centers, teen drop-in centers and sport activities for young people (33)</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>			
Environmental Determinants of Health				
<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</p>	<p>Set short- and long-term greenhouse gas (GHG) targets for the province – 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 60% below 1990 levels by 2050 (45)</p> <p>Make GHG reductions a priority for industry, using the tax system to provide incentives for investments in energy efficiency (45)</p> <p>Expand the role of all renewable energy sources, including wind power, solar power, natural gas, bio-mass power that helps turn waste into a resource, and geothermal and ground source heat pumps that draw on energy from the Earth itself (49)</p> <p>Offer consumer incentives to reduce GHG emissions, including rebates on</p>	<p>Meet Ontario's Kyoto targets by 2012 and 2020; Set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by no less than 6% below 1990 levels by 2012, and no less than 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 (http://ontariondp.com/node/1712)</p> <p>\$450 million for Climate Change Program (c. 3)</p> <p>Make Ontario's Environmental Commissioner a tough effective climate change watchdog (http://ontariondp.com/node/1712)</p> <p>Help families use less energy by providing low-interest loans to help retrofit homes, tougher appliance and building code standards, put 100,000 solar hot water heaters in home by</p>	<p>Achieve at least a 6% reduction in emissions below 1990 levels by 2010 to help meet Canada's Kyoto obligations, and 80% by 2050 (1)</p> <p>Reduce peak energy consumption by 50% per capita by 2020 (11)</p> <p>Invest \$16 billion over 15 years through loan guarantees, grants and tax credits for conservation and demand-management programs (12)</p> <p>Double the maximum provincial energy-efficient grant for home owners (12)</p>

	<p>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>buying more efficient vehicles, technologies and appliances (45)</p> <p>Implement stricter efficiency guidelines for industrial and commercial buildings, home and appliances (48)</p> <p>Purchase more green power for government use, make new government buildings 30% more energy efficient, reduce energy use in our offices by a further 10% and eliminate high-emission government vehicles (45, 48)</p> <p>Research and develop more new technologies and improvements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (45)</p>	<p>2012, and use Peaksaver technology to reduce hydro use in summer peak periods (http://ontariodp.com/node/1712)</p> <p>Reduce home energy bills by providing energy efficiency and conservation incentives and loans and grants for home retrofits (http://ontariodp.com/node/1636)</p> <p>Fast-track public transit expansion – including new investments in light rail and GO Transit – to reduce greenhouse gases the quickest (http://ontariodp.com/protectchildrenandenvironment).</p> <p>\$220 million for municipal transit (c. 3)</p>	<p>Create a 10-year \$500 million grant program for municipal building projects that utilize green building technologies and LEED certification (12)</p> <p>Allow electricity rates to increase over the next three years until they reach their true, unsubsidized cost (12)</p> <p>Mandate the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to look at conservation and efficiency as a primary element of the Ontario energy mix (12)</p> <p>Create a 2% tax on all large appliances that do not provide real-time electrical consumption information by 2010 (12)</p> <p>Advance the dates for Ontario Building Code (OBC) energy-efficiency targets and encourage conservation by reforming the Ontario Building Code (12)</p> <p>Provide \$200 million over 10 years for converting government building heating systems to combined heat and power systems, which are more efficient (14)</p> <p>Create a peak-energy trading system for industrial users (14)</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>Clean up Ontario's coal-powered plants and adopt a realistic plan to replace dirty coal power with clean alternatives (49)</p>	<p>Phase out dirty coal power plants - shut down the Nanticoke plant by 2011, and Lambton by 2012. The two northern plants would be phased out and used as emergency back-up until permanent closures in 2014 (http://ontariondp.com/node/1712)</p>	<p>Phase out all coal-fired power plants by late 2009 if electricity users are able to reduce consumption by 20% through implementation of conservation and efficiency programs (13)</p>
<p>Cancel new nuclear plant plans</p>		<p>Replace Ontario's aging fleet of nuclear reactors (49)</p>	<p>Invest in safe, green, renewable energy instead of nuclear mega-schemes (http://ontariondp.com/protectchildrenandenvironment)</p>	<p>Immediately adopt legislation banning the construction of new nuclear reactors or the refurbishment of existing reactors, excluding regular maintenance that would extend their projected life span past 2025 (13)</p>
<p>Increase reliance on renewable energy</p>	<p>[See item above about doubling renewables and conservation]</p>	<p>Expand the role of all renewable energy sources (49)</p> <p>Support co-generation that recycles waste energy (49)</p>	<p>[See item above about investing in safe, green, renewable energy]</p>	<p>Provide up to \$150 million per year for a program for low-income households to convert from electric space heating to natural gas or renewable energy sources and technologies (12)</p> <p>Create a long-term supply management plan to provide regulatory stability in the renewable energy sector (14)</p> <p>Work with municipalities to create renewable energy zones where wind projects will be pre-approved by the provincial</p>

				<p>government for environmental impact assessments (14)</p> <p>Offer assistance and subsidies for renewable energy (14)</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>	<p>Work with the federal government to define a list of high-risk chemicals in Ontario, and require businesses that use the listed chemicals to inform themselves of innovative opportunities to phase them out or replace them entirely. Support business in meeting this challenge and examine the idea of grants or targeted tax credits (46)</p> <p>Implement stricter requirements in industrial and commercial building codes, and encourage industries that share the processing of waste products to locate near one another (45)</p>	<p>\$125 million for environmental enforcement (c. 3)</p> <p>Aggressive cancer prevention plan will closely follow priorities set by Canadian Cancer Society, and includes reducing the exposure of working families to cancer-causing agents including tobacco and toxic substances in their everyday environment (http://ontariondp.com/ndp-unveils-cancer-prevention-strategy)</p> <p>Establish a Right-to-Know law that ensures families know what toxins and other environmental hazards are in their food, air, ground and water (http://ontariondp.com/protectchildrenandenvironment).</p> <p>\$10 million for Right to Know and Toxics Implementation (c. 3)</p>	<p>Introduce legislation to establish a <i>Pollution and Cancer Prevention Act</i>. This act would require any company using substances on the federal National Pollutant Release Inventory to have a pollution prevention plan in place to reduce and/or eliminate the use of toxic chemicals. The act would also require the labelling of products containing carcinogens, mutagens or reproductive toxins (16)</p> <p>Introduce legislation to prohibit improper end uses for tires and hazardous chemicals (23)</p>
<p>Ban Non-Essential Use of Pesticides</p>	<p>Ban the cosmetic use of pesticides across the province (29)</p>			<p>Introduce legislation to phase in a province-wide ban on the cosmetic (non-food related) application of synthetic pesticides (17)</p>

Strengthen Medicare: Access to Health-Care Services and Focus on Community Care				
<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>Commit to universal, publicly funded health care -- with predictable funding that is guaranteed to grow (2)</p> <p>As long as universal accessibility is always protected and no one can buy access to better health care in Ontario, we will involve the private sector where there are opportunities to shorten waiting lists and improve access to high-quality, publicly funded care (2)</p> <p>\$100 million for mental health initiatives, with a focus on children and Aboriginal communities, including programs to improve mental health assessment and treatment and targeted tax relief to employers who provide employee mental health programs (4, c. 5)</p> <p>Invest in electronic health records to ensure each Ontarian has a secure, private, life-time record of their patient history and care (5, 51)</p> <p>\$50 million to improve health care for children, including health promotion to</p>	<p>Relist \$100 million per year for physiotherapy, optometry and chiropractor care (c. 2)</p> <p>To reduce hospital waits and improve health care, certify internationally-trained doctors to practice in Ontario (http://ontariondp.com/healthcare). \$5 million (c. 3)</p> <p>\$50 million to eliminate ER wait times (c. 3)</p> <p>\$65 million for cancer care (c.3)</p> <p>Invest \$100 million in children's dental care through Ontario Smiles (c. 2)</p> <p>Crack down on clinics that allow some patients to unfairly pay their way to the front of the line (http://ontariondp.com/node/1714)</p> <p>\$100 million for increased services for children with autism (c. 3)</p> <p>Work with stakeholders toward developing an autism research and human resources plan to support children with autism as they age and</p>	<p>The health care system should be publicly funded, publicly delivered, and publicly accountable (28)</p> <p>Provide Ontarians in the lowest 75th percentile of income an additional health care allowance of \$1,000 per person, phased in over five years, for purchase of prescription drugs and/or care from any practitioner mandated by the <i>Regulated Health Professionals Act</i> (RHPA) at an eventual cost of \$9.75 billion by 2012 (28)</p> <p>Invest \$90 million in northern health and well-being including increasing the northern health travel allowance by \$15 million (8)</p>

	Support dental services for low-income Ontario families (18)	<p>build on the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program, and wait time reduction initiatives for children's services (3, c. 12)</p> <p>Annual increase of \$75 million in funding to support children with autism (c. 7)</p>	<p>promote research into growing rates of autism (http://ontariondp.com/node/1722)</p> <p>\$100 million for increased services for children with autism (c. 3)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent for-profit clinics from delivering necessary health-care services 		<p>"As long as universal accessibility is always protected and no one can buy access to better health care in Ontario, we will involve the private sector where there are opportunities to shorten waiting lists and improve access to high-quality, publicly funded care (2)"</p>	<p>Ensure that every provincial health dollar is invested in public health care – not private hospitals (http://ontariondp.com/healthcare)</p> <p>End expensive and wasteful privatization experiments and ensure that every dollar goes to health care (http://ontariondp.com/node/1715)</p> <p>End cutthroat bidding for homecare contracts and support not-for-profit providers of home care (http://ontariondp.com/node/1714)</p> <p>Create new long term care beds in the not-for-profit sector (http://ontariondp.com/node/1714)</p>	<p>Create incentives for the establishment of community-based nonprofit long-term care facilities to displace profit as the prime motivator in LTC facilities (29)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reject the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement and others that limit government's 		<p>Seek to join the inter-provincial free trade agreement between British Columbia and Alberta, and explore a</p>		

<p>ability to regulate in the public interest.</p>		<p>similar arrangement with Quebec (37)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place a moratorium on public-private partnerships (P3s) in public hospitals. 			<p>Pull the plug on new profit-driven hospitals and resume building hospitals as public not-for-profit facilities (http://ontariondp.com/node/1714)</p>	<p>Legislate full and open disclosure of all P3 (public-private partnership) agreements for future development of health care facilities (29)</p>
<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>	<p>Goal of ensuring every Ontarian has access to a family doctor (3)</p> <p>Comprehensive long-term physician recruitment strategy (5)</p>	<p>Attract health professionals by providing front-line health care in a number of settings, including group practice, nurse-led clinics, Community Health Centres, and other settings (http://ontariondp.com/node/1708)</p>	<p>Immediately increase the budget of the Ministry of Health Promotion from its current 1% level to 2% of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s budget</p> <p>Increase the funding and effectiveness of primary and preventive health care by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a joint commission of stakeholders to explore best practices for implementation of preventive and primary health care by family doctors, with an emphasis on improved outcomes (29); and • Increasing support and incentives for </p>

				multidisciplinary clinics and practices (29)
<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>\$50 million for chronic disease management programs, which includes piloting seven nurse-led clinics (c. 5)</p> <p>\$100 million for investments in long-term care, including capital renewal and increased food allowances (c. 5)</p> <p>\$100 million for home care service expansion and improvements (c. 5)</p> <p>Enhance long-term care by bringing 35,000 below-standard care spaces up to the highest level and ensure access to primary care for seniors. We will eliminate three- and four-bed wards and ensure that all long-term care residents have the dignity of an en-suite bathroom, as well as comfortable facilities to spend time with their families (3)</p>	<p>Expand home care and guarantee a daily minimum of 3 1/2 hours of personal care in long-term care homes to take the pressure off hospitals, ERs and family caregivers (http://ontariondp.com/healthcare). At a cost of \$400 million (c. 3)</p> <p>\$150 million for 2,000 new long-term care beds (c. 3)</p> <p>\$230 million for home care (c. 3)</p>	<p>Expand the mandate of Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) to include monitoring, support and funding of informal caregivers, compensated at minimum wage, providing assisted daily living in the home (29)</p>
Nursing Workforce as a Priority				
<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>Develop a comprehensive human resources plan for healthcare (4)</p>	<p>Invest \$400 million to hire more full-time nurses, doctors and other health professionals</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>Commitment to 70 per cent full time employment for registered nurses in all sectors by 2010 (5)</p>		

Guarantee Full-Time Employment for All New RN Graduates	Guarantee jobs for new nursing grads (22)			
Commit to 80/20 Program for RNs 55 Years and Older	Invest in healthy work environments for nurses (22)	Commit to 80/20 strategy (5, c. 5)		
Equalize Remuneration Across Sectors				
Enhance Roles and Utilization of NPs		Make greater use of nurse practitioners (5)		
Support Expanded Roles for RNs				
Increase Nursing Enrolments		Strengthen the education of health professionals. Work with our universities, colleges and specialized post-secondary health care institutions to ensure that Ontarians have better access to nurses, doctors, nurse practitioners and other key health professionals (42)		
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)	Break down the barriers that keep many skilled immigrants in poverty, including faster recognition of foreign credentials and more help for new Ontarians to settle in their new homes		

	<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>	and to upgrade their skills and education (15)		
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)</p> <p>[Based on Liberal fiscal plan data in platform costing, revenue would grow</p>	<p>Phase out “health tax”(23)</p> <p>Replace high taxes with savings and efficiencies (23)</p> <p>Eliminate capital tax on accelerated timetable, if possible (37)</p> <p>[Based on PC fiscal plan data in platform costing, revenue would grow</p>	<p>Cut health tax for those earning less than \$80,000 per year (c. 4) Replace this tax because it is disproportionately paid by low- and middle-income people (c.1)</p> <p>The Fair Tax plan will protect the public health care working families rely on by ensuring that banks, insurance companies, and the most wealthy pay</p>	<p>Reduce personal taxes by \$3.5 billion over the next four years by phasing out the Ontario Health Premium Tax in a fiscally responsible manner through a revenue-neutral green tax shift (6)</p> <p>Reduce personal income taxes by \$2.3 billion over four years by</p>

	<p>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>14.6%, while expenditures would grow 14.3% over four years (c. 6)]</p>	<p>their fair share http://ontariondp.com/node/1636</p> <p>Plan to replace revenue lost by health tax rebate by taising corporate tax rates;and raising income tax rates. Both offer the potential for greater revenue growth than the health tax (c.1)</p> <p>Raise the Tobacco Tax to further discourage smoking (c. 1).</p> <p>Eliminate the \$400,000 Employer Health Tax exemption for corporations with payrolls in excess of \$1 million. This would generate \$535 million starting in 2008-9 and increasing to \$635 million in 2011-12 (c. 1).</p>	<p>gradually raising the personal tax exemption to \$11,000 (6)</p> <p>Reduce corporate income taxes by \$1 billion over four years through a revenue-neutral green tax shift (6)</p> <p>Apply an immediate 2% carbon tax on oil, natural gas and coal, to be increased 2% annually every year for the next three years to 8% total tax in four years (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>
NDP Commitments: <http://ontariondp.com/commitments>
NDP Costing: http://ontariondp.com/files/images/NDP_fiscal_plan.pdf
GPO platform: http://www.gpo.ca/sites/greenparty.on.ca/files/GPO%202007%20Platform_0.pdf