

# ONTARIO PLATFORM COMPARISON 2022



## INVEST IN PUBLIC SERVICES

- Annual hospital investments that exceed inflation
- New provincially regulated public homecare system
- Hire more education workers based on actual need
- Restore 50/50 funding model for municipal transit, build a public bus and train system that connects the province
- Profit out of long term care, 30,000 new beds, 10,000 new PSWs, 30,000 new nurses
- New funding formula to properly fund public schools
- No more Public-Private-Partnerships (P3s)
- Clear school maintenance and repair backlog in 10 years using public employees
- Double the Rural and Northern Education Fund
- \$17 m increase for mental-health crisis services

- \$3.3 billion for hospitals, despite the actual need by 2029 being \$65 B
- \$ 1 billion for homecare but almost all care will be private contractors
- \$230 million to hire workers across the healthcare system, no commitment to numbers
- Focus on building highways and transit, but all with private contractors
- Continued reliance on for-profit nursing homes, no accountability, no reviews
- Projected shortfall of \$12.3 B in education by 2030
- Overall, will spend \$1,292 less per person on public services by 2026

- \$2B for homecare expansion - with no timeline and "a preference" for public care
  - Hire 100,000 workers across the healthcare system - no overall commitment to hospital funding levels
  - Hire 16,000 education workers, \$10 B for school repairs
- WHILE IN GOVERNMENT:**
- Closed 124 schools, removed education workers' right to strike and imposed wage stagnation
  - Froze hospital funding for 4 straight years and gave us the fewest beds per capita in the country
  - AG found that 74 Liberal P3 privatization projects cost the province \$8 billion more than public procurement
  - Held program spending at 1.4% from 2011-17 below inflation and population growth
  - Privatized Hydro One

## MAKE THE WEALTH PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE

- Increase the corporate tax rate to 13 per cent, a doubled capital gains tax for large corporations and individuals earning over \$3 million
- Tax freeze on lower- and middle-class households (making < \$200k/year)
- Annual speculation and vacancy tax of 20% on real-estate investors
- Cap and trade tax system on polluting corporations

- Will further cut \$3.8 billion in personal and corporate taxes
  - No plan to generate revenue, will continue to starve the public sector for resources
- WHILE IN GOVERNMENT:**
- Gave away \$5 billion/year in tax cuts while in government

- Will suspend corporate taxes on small business for 2 years
  - No overall tax/revenue plan
- WHILE IN GOVERNMENT:**
- Lowered corporate tax rate from 14% to 11.5% causing a loss in annual revenue of \$3.5 billion

## STRENGTHEN WORKERS RIGHTS

- WSIB coverage for all essential workers
- Repeal Bill 124, restore free collective bargaining
- Create "Ontario Benefits," a portal benefit package for workers changing jobs
- 10 employer-paid sick days for all
- 4-day work week pilot
- No back-to-work legislation to end strikes
- "Card-check" certification and first-contract arbitration to make joining a union easier
- All workers covered by enhanced ESA with equal pay for casual and part-time workers
- Anti-scab laws to stop replacement workers in strikes

- Will increase WSIB payments to workers, but no commitment to timelines or amounts
  - Will "explore" a portable benefits package
  - \$114 M to promote skilled trades
- WHILE IN GOVERNMENT:**
- Enacted Bill 124, capping public-sector wages at 1%
  - Cut WSIB benefits and used surpluses to reimburse employer premiums (while in Government)
  - Legislated gig workers out of the ESA and gave them lesser rights and benefits than other workers (while in Government)
  - Repealed labour law reforms
  - Regularly use back-to-work legislation

- Will repeal Bill 124
  - Will "explore" a portable package
  - 10 paid sick days for all, but funded by taxpayers, not employers
  - 4-day work week pilot
  - Gig workers covered by the ESA, but no commitment to enhancements
- WHILE IN GOVERNMENT:**
- Attacked free collective bargaining with "net zero" mandates, back-to-work legislation (including CUPE members at 3903) and Bill 115, later ruled unconstitutional by the Ontario Superior Court.
  - Dismissed calls for 10 paid sick days and instead brought in 2 paid emergency leave days
  - Did not introduce universal card check and did not remove exceptions to ESA coverage.

## RAISE WAGES AND TACKLE THE COST OF LIVING

- Double ODSP and social assistance in the first 2 years
- Raise the minimum wage to \$16 and raise by \$1 each year, substantial increases across public sector through free and fair collective bargaining
- \$25 minimum wage for PSWs and childcare workers
- Free mental healthcare for all
- Rent control for all apartments, housing subsidies for those who can't afford rent
- Free dental care for households <\$90k, sliding scale for higher incomes, speed up pharmacare benefits
- Cancel all interest on provincial student loan
- Regulate gas prices, end auto-insurance discrimination by postal code

- Continued freeze on ODSP and social assistance
- No change of approach on public-sector wages, have refused to repeal Bill 124
- Increase tax credit for low-income families by \$25
- Make "pandemic pay" permanent, one-time retention bonus for nurses
- Homecare tax credit, for seniors only, max of \$1500

- 20% increase to ODSP and social assistance over 2 years, but while in gov't they froze these rates for years
  - Raise minimum wage to \$16, then abolish minimum wage and establish regional "living wage" amounts
  - \$25 minimum wage for PSWs
  - Free mental healthcare for health professionals only, no commitment on dental or pharmacare
  - \$1k/year max increase to Old Age Pension
  - No HST on prepared foods under \$20
  - Temporary reduction on transit fares to \$1
  - Tax credit for winter tires
- WHILE IN GOVERNMENT:**
- Cut the Work-Related Benefit for working ODSP recipients and froze the ODSP and social assistance rate for years
  - Implemented a housing plan that demanded only 10% of housing developments be affordable housing and in low density areas, just 5%

## FIGHT INEQUALITY AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- Implement UNDRIP and Truth/Reconciliation calls to action
- Green New Democratic Deal: plant 1 B trees, world's largest green building retrofit program, expand Greenbelt, 1 million green jobs to transition away from fossil fuels
- Affirming healthcare for people of all genders, free transition drugs, free HIV prophylaxis and medication
- Declare opioid addiction a public-health crisis, expand safe consumption sites, decriminalize personal drug use
- Declare anti-Black racism a public-health crisis
- End police carding and destroy all carding records
- Clean up mercury contamination at Grassy Narrow

- Nothing new on offer
  - Will expand gas production in ways that will increase emissions by as much as 400%
- WHILE IN GOVERNMENT:**
- Pushed outdated homophobic sex ed, refused to implement Truth/Reconciliation calls to action, refused to recognize Truth/Reconciliation holiday, supported police carding and expanded police powers
  - Failed to meet every timeline and benchmark for implementation of Paris Agreement on climate

- Implement Truth/Reconciliation calls to action
  - Expand the Greenbelt, plant 800 M trees
  - Will review gendered healthcare practices, will "explore" access to transition and HIV drugs
  - Ban on handguns, but no change to police practices
  - Subsidies proposed for retrofits, electric vehicles and charging stations
  - Create 25,000 green jobs
- WHILE IN GOVERNMENT:**
- Created the Greenbelt, but Attorney General found that there was a failure in reporting the state of the environment
  - Refused to ban carding