

THE FIGHT FOR GOOD JOBS

KEY ISSUES

Free trade and globalization led to massive job losses in the 1990s, which successive Conservative and Liberal governments in Ontario have failed to address. Rather than stimulate job creation, these parties have continued to support limits and reductions in program spending in order to provide tax cuts which mainly benefit the wealthy.

More than 175,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost since the McGuinty government took office. Bad government policies have devastated towns and cities, particularly across the north, including high de-regulated hydro rates that have contributed to mill and other plant closures.

The Tory government destroyed labour laws and took away the rights of workers. It took away the card check certification system and allowed employers to openly campaign against unionizing efforts and harass organizers. The Liberals have yet to fully restore many of these labour laws. While they have provided some funding for employment standards enforcement, there is still not enough being done to go after 'dead-beat bosses'.

With initiatives like public-private partnerships (P3s) and Alternative Financing Procurements (AFPs), both the Liberals and Conservatives have actively promoted privatization and contracting out – leading to the loss of good jobs and cut-backs in wages and benefits. Public sector jobs support local economies and it is important to protect these tax bases.

While Tory and Liberal governments find it expedient to award contracts to the lowest bidder (often off-shore companies), Ontario needs a 'Made in Canada' policy that will keep good jobs in Canada, including jobs in smaller and northern communities.

THE PARTIES – REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Lowered taxes; did nothing to create good jobs as globalization shut down Ontario workplaces

Liberals

- 150,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost under McGuinty – he says there is nothing to be done
- Liberal policies have led to job layoffs in health care, schools and other public sectors

NDP

- NDP Jobs Plan will strengthen the Employment Standards Act to help prevent plant closures and the moving of jobs offshore
- NDP support public investment in key sectors to create jobs; increase training
- Would introduce anti-scab laws and restore laws to make unionizing a basic right

CUPE ONTARIO'S POSITION

Our Choice: Only the NDP have a Jobs Plan that will help prevent closures, support public investment in key sectors and introduce anti-scab laws.