

LHINs AND THE PRIVATIZATION OF HEALTH CARE

KEY ISSUES

By 2007, the Liberals had announced 12 private “P3” hospitals—six times more than the Harris Conservatives—that will privatize jobs and services in local communities. Many more are expected. Already many of these projects have cost overruns, and hundreds of millions of taxpayers’ dollars are going into the pockets of private shareholders instead of health care services.

The Liberal government has also introduced Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), which will oversee two-thirds of Ontario’s health care budget and determine the health care priorities and services in every community. LHINs will weaken Medicare by opening the door to increased private health care delivery through competitive bidding. Private clinics and services will win contracts for providing health services that were once delivered publicly. The result will mean market-based health care, privatization and the removal of services from local communities.

In the 1990s, the Conservative government removed set standards of staffing and care for residents of long-term facilities. By 2000, the average hours of care per day for residents dropped to 2.04 hours. The McGuinty Liberals broke an election promise to reintroduce set standards when it introduced Bill 140. CUPE Ontario and its partners have campaigned for 3.5 hours of care per day, a standard that other provinces are striving to achieve. The new legislation for long-term care homes also needs measures to protect front line workers from violence, and ensure accountability of public money in all homes.

THE PARTIES REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Have explicitly proposed for-profit surgical clinics be introduced into the health care system. This radical proposal takes privatization much further than the Harris government dared.
- Have promised to tax less and spend more. Their math doesn’t add up.

Liberals

- Broke their promise to stop private P3 hospitals; have set up LHINs, which will threaten services in smaller communities and open the door to market-based health care.
- Made a promise to put minimum staffing standards into regulations for long-term care facilities. Have yet to fulfil this promise despite province-wide pressure by CUPE Ontario and partners.

NDP

- Committed to publicly funded and delivered health care and an end to private hospitals.
- Would put all health care funding into public services, not profits of private corporations.
- Support a legislated minimum standard for all patients in long-term care, and adequate funding to ensure that it happens.
- Will scrap competitive bidding in home care.

CUPE ONTARIO’S POSITION ...

Our choice: Only the NDP supports publicly funded and delivered health care, and standards of care for our seniors and loved ones in long-term care facilities.

HEALTH CARE - A Provincial Election Issue

Stop Health Care Privatization

By 2007, the Liberals had announced 12 private “P3” hospitals—six times more than the Harris Conservatives—that will privatize jobs and services in communities. Many more are expected, putting millions of taxpayers’ dollars into the pockets of private shareholders instead of public health care.

The Liberals have introduced Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), which will determine health care priorities and services in every community. LHINs will open the door to increased private health care delivery through competitive bidding. The result will be market-based health care, privatization and removal of services from communities.

In the 1990s, the Conservatives removed standards of staffing and care for residents of long-term facilities. The Liberals failed to reintroduce standards with Bill 140. CUPE Ontario and its partners have called for 3.5 hours of care per day, and measures to protect front line workers from violence and ensure accountability of public money in all homes.

Only the NDP is committed to publicly funded and delivered health care, an end to private hospitals and legislated standards of care in long-term facilities.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write or call your MPP and candidates and ask them the questions in this leaflet.
2. When a candidate comes knocking at your door, pose these questions and ask for their commitment.
3. Work on the campaigns of NDP candidates to elect MPPs who support our issues.

For daily election updates, check

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Candidates Questions

1. Will you work to stop the privatization of public services (P3s) that leads to the loss of good jobs and higher costs for these services?
2. Will you oppose the transfer of not-for-profit health care services to for-profit corporations?
3. Will you work to stop competitive bidding in home care and other parts of the health care system?
4. Will you commit to a minimum average of 3.5 hours of care per day for residents in long-term care homes?

Get a commitment from your provincial election candidates to stand up for public health care!

It's Time to Put People First

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SERVICES UNDER ATTACK

KEY ISSUES

In the 1990s, the Conservative government downloaded responsibility for services to municipalities without the money needed to pay for them. Cities now pay at least \$3 billion per year to cover downloaded services, yet the Liberal government refuses to pay bills for such services despite having a budget surplus.

The Liberals continue to short change cities for spending on transit, roads, emergency services, housing, daycare, social assistance, literacy, public health and water protection, putting pressure to cut programs and squeeze spending on libraries, water, recycling, snow removal, recreation, parks, disease prevention and food safety.

These conditions are fuelling moves to privatize many services:

- Funding shortfalls are pressuring municipalities to sell off public services and contract out jobs. Liberals and Conservatives encourage cities and towns to contract private corporations to build and operate new arenas, libraries, ambulance headquarters, water and sewage treatment systems. Privatized services destroy good jobs, are more expensive, deliver poorer service, and are not accountable to the public who pays for them.
- The Liberals have considered shifting control of our water systems from municipal governments to unelected boards dominated by private water companies. They refuse to pass laws strong enough to prevent private companies from taking massive amounts of lake and river water for their own profit. As well, the Liberals have downloaded responsibility for keeping our drinking water sources clean to municipalities, conservation authorities and citizen's groups without enough money to do the job.

THE PARTIES REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Downloaded major services from the province to municipalities without enough funding
- Set up the infrastructure funding programs that still promote privatization and P3s

Liberals

- Have not reversed or paid for the bulk of downloaded services from the Harris/Eves years, restoring only some funding for ambulance, transit and public health services
- Will not declare that water is a public trust, and will not protect it from private profiteers

NDP

- Have a detailed, workable and realistic plan that will see a complete upload of the costs of all downloaded locally delivered services
- Would ensure that fees from private companies taking water from Ontario's rivers and lakes are high enough to pay for real conservation and protection programs

CUPE ONTARIO'S POSITION ...

Our choice: Only the NDP will ensure the provincial government pays for its own programs instead of downloading the costs to municipal property taxes.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES - A Provincial Election Issue

Key Issues

In the 1990s, the Conservative government downloaded responsibility for provincial services to municipalities without the money needed to pay for them. Cities now pay at least \$3 billion per year to cover downloaded services, yet the Liberal government refuses to pay bills for such services despite having a budget surplus. These conditions are fuelling moves to privatize many services:

- To make up funding shortfalls, Liberals and Conservatives encourage cities and towns to contract private corporations to build and operate new arenas, libraries, ambulance headquarters, water and sewage treatment systems.
- The Liberals have considered shifting control of our water systems from municipal governments to unelected boards dominated by private water companies. They refuse to pass laws strong enough to prevent private companies from taking massive amounts of lake and river water for their own profit. The Liberals have downloaded responsibility for keeping our drinking water sources clean to municipalities, conservation authorities and citizen's groups without enough money to do the job.

Only the NDP will ensure the provincial government pays for its own programs instead of downloading the costs to municipal property taxes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write or call your MPP and candidates and ask them the questions in this leaflet.
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Candidates' Questions

1. Will you work to stop the privatization of public services and public-private partnerships (P3s) that lead to the loss of good jobs and higher costs for these services?
2. Will you call for services that have been downloaded to municipalities—like social services, housing and water protection committees—to be fully and adequately paid for by the provincial government?
3. Will you work to ensure that Ontario recognizes water as a public trust for future generations and make sure that all water services are publicly owned and operated, not privatized.

Get a commitment from your provincial election candidates to stand up for public municipal services!

It's Time to Put People First

SCHOOLS FLAWED FUNDING FORMULA

KEY ISSUES

The flawed education funding formula introduced by the Harris Conservatives in 1998 continues to wreak havoc on the JK-grade 12 school system. The McGuinty Liberals have broken a promise to fix the funding formula, leaving school boards with serious shortfalls when it comes to school operations and support staff. The results:

- This year, 60% of school boards will make staff cuts, fuelling a job crisis in Ontario in many communities that are already reeling from cuts to the manufacturing sector.
- Job cuts to custodial/maintenance workers and secretarial positions mean that boards are compromising cleanliness and safety in order to meet the province's requirements for balanced budgets.
- Thousands of Educational Assistant (EA) jobs are being cut or having hours cut back, affecting our most vulnerable special needs children. Most EAs work 6-hour days, not enough time to look after special needs students and do the general supervision they are increasingly being asked to do.
- Because of the faulty funding formula, many schools are being allowed to deteriorate to the point where it is cheaper to close than repair them. Hundreds of rural, northern and inner-city schools are slated to close within the next couple of years.

THE PARTIES REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Created a funding formula that was designed to promote cuts to the education system.
- Introduced a tax-credit for private schooling; now they want to allow faith-based schools to receive government funding, which will strip funds away from the current underfunded system.

Liberals

- Promised to fix the funding formula; addressed teacher issues, but ignored support staff and school operations.
- Are sending in supervisors to balance board budgets when local trustees refuse to make cuts that will hurt students and their quality of education.

NDP

- Committed to publicly funded and delivered education; would ban fundraising for school essentials so that every school has a fair opportunity to provide excellent schools and education.
- Would completely overhaul the unfair funding formula and hold annual hearings to ensure that it is working properly for students.
- Would end unfair school board cuts—including school closures—until the funding formula is fixed.

CUPE ONTARIO'S POSITION

Our choice: Only the NDP is committed to fixing the funding formula and restoring funding levels needed to ensure that children succeed.

EDUCATION - A Provincial Election Issue

Key Issues

The Harris government's flawed education funding formula continues to starve schools of resources. The McGuinty Liberals broke a promise to fix the funding formula, leaving school boards with serious shortfalls. The results:

- This year, 60% of school boards will make staff cuts, further fuelling a job crisis in many Ontario communities.
- Job cuts to custodial/maintenance workers and secretarial positions mean that boards are compromising school cleanliness and safety in order to meet the province's requirements for balanced budgets.
- Thousands of Educational Assistant (EA) jobs are being cut or having hours cut back, affecting our most vulnerable special needs children.

Now, the Tory Conservatives want to introduce faith-based schools, which will strip funds away from the current underfunded system.

Only the NDP is committed to fixing the funding formula and restoring funding levels needed to ensure that children succeed.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write or call your MPP and candidates and ask them the 3 questions in this leaflet.
2. When a candidate comes knocking at your door, pose the questions and ask for their commitment.
3. Work on the campaigns of NDP candidates to elect MPPs who support our issues.

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Candidates' Questions

1. Will you stop the privatization of public services and public-private partnerships (P3s) that lead to the loss of good jobs and higher costs for these services?
2. Will you actively work to fix the flawed education funding formula now to ensure Boards have the funds they need to provide safe, clean schools and quality education for students?
3. Will you support a 7-hour workday for Educational Assistants (EAs) so that they can adequately meet the needs of special needs students?
4. Will you oppose public dollars being used to fund additional faith-based schools that would fragment and divert funds away from our current cash-strapped public school system?

Get a commitment from your provincial election candidates to stand up for public education!

It's Time to Put People First

UNDERFUNDED SOCIAL SERVICES

KEY ISSUES

In the 1990s, the Harris Conservative government slashed social services budgets across the board, and downloaded massive responsibilities for provincial services to municipalities without the needed money to pay for them. These services included child care, social assistance and public housing. Cities are struggling to pay at least \$3 billion per year to cover these services. Despite having a surplus budget, the McGuinty government has not reversed this download and refuse to pay its bills.

- A decade of underfunding and under-resourcing has left many community agencies unable to meet their costs – for basic necessities like heat, supplies, and decent wages for frontline workers. The Liberals have made small reinvestments that in no way enable agencies to meeting growing demand.
- When it comes to child care, the Liberals were prepared to stand by and let child care centres close, and only committed to spending federal funding for child care after a huge lobby and pressure. Their “Best Start Program” from the last election was flawed and never would have provided a framework for a quality non-profit early learning and child care program.
- After years of neglect, the Liberals have re-invested in the Association for Community Living (ACL) sector following a huge lobby effort from workers, employers and families. Their modest reinvestments in social assistance rates do nothing to restore the cut-backs in social assistance or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) that occurred under the Harris government.

THE PARTIES – REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Downloaded social service costs to cities without funding; slashed community social service budgets.
- Cut back social assistance and Ontario Disability Support Program rates.

Liberals

- Have not reversed downloading of social services to cities; refuse to pay bills.
- Funds to Child Care only when lobbied; haven’t met their 2003 promise.
- Funds to ACLs only when lobbied; only minor reinvestments in community social services.

NDP

- Have developed a detailed plan for the province pay cost of all downloaded services.
- Call for real investment and laws to ensure non-profit child care gets the funds it needs.
- Continued to affirm its commitment to the importance of community-based social services to make Ontario communities strong and healthy.

CUPE ONTARIO’S POSITION ...

Only the NDP will ensure the province pays for the social services that were downloaded to cities and respects community social services as a vital support.

Social Services - A Provincial Election Issue

KEY ISSUES

In the 1990s, the Conservatives slashed social service budgets and downloaded provincial services – including child care, social assistance and public housing – to municipalities without the funds to pay for them. The McGuinty government has not reversed this situation in any significant way.

- A decade of underfunding and under-resourcing has left many community agencies unable to meet their costs – for basic necessities and workers' wages.
- The Liberals were prepared to let child care centres close, and only committed to spending federal funding for child care after a huge lobby and pressure.
- Another huge lobby forced the Liberals to re-invest in the Association for Community Living (ACL) sector. But their modest reinvestments in social assistance rates do nothing to restore the cut-backs in social assistance made by the Conservative government.

Only the NDP have called for the province to pay for all services that were downloaded.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write or call your MPP and candidates and ask them the questions in this leaflet.
2. When a candidate comes knocking at your door, pose the questions and ask for their commitment.
3. Go to all-candidates' meetings; make public health care an issue with the audience by posing the questions to candidates.

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Candidates' Questions

1. Will you work to stop the privatization of public services (P3s) that leads to the loss of good jobs and higher costs for these services?
2. Will you support an accord between the province and community social service agencies to set specific goals for reinvestment in core stable, multi-year funding?
3. Will you press for increased funding for child care to allow for a provincial single rate child care system like Quebec's? Will you press for all child care funding to go only to publicly regulated child care?
4. Will you work to increase funding for developmental services, so that workers reach a liveable wage, and that agencies can pay workers and hire more staff to support people with intellectual disabilities?

Get a commitment from your provincial election candidates to stand up for Ontario's Social Services!

It's Time to Put People First

UNDERFUNDING OF UNIVERSITIES

KEY ISSUES

In the 1990s, the Conservative government made deep funding cuts to post-secondary education and de-regulated tuition fees. They also passed a law allowing for private universities to be created in Ontario. The Liberals have failed to reverse funding cuts; today, Ontario ranks second-last in provincial funding for post-secondary education.

Both political parties have starved universities of funds, leading administrations to privatize services, contract out work, defer maintenance and raise tuition and other fees.

- McGuinty introduced a tuition fee freeze then removed it, causing tuition fees to skyrocket. Ontario fees are now among the highest in the country, making it increasingly difficult for working families and CUPE members, who are also students, to attend university.
- Continued funding cuts mean that university workers are losing jobs to privatization, contracting out and attrition.
- Infrastructure is crumbling at campuses across the province, posing significant health and safety risks for university workers and students.
- There is more commercialization and corporate sponsorship of buildings, public spaces, and specialized departments and curriculums.
- User or 'ancillary' fees have become a cornerstone of privatization with students and university workers having to pay: parking, gym and recreational facility fees; lab and equipment fees; fees for transcripts, grades; and university identification cards, among other things.

THE PARTIES – REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Have proposed more private sector partnerships for university funding.
- Have no commitment to roll back tuition fees.

Liberals

- Refuse to address the funding requirements needed for universities to provide adequate permanent staffing and faculty hiring, and address building maintenance and capital needs.
- Tuition fees have skyrocketed since they reneged on their promise and took the freeze off fees.

NDP

- Committed to reduce tuition fees and improve student assistance.
- Called for increased funding to ensure that Ontario universities have the funds they need.
- Committed to scrap plans for private universities.

CUPE ONTARIO'S POSITION ...

Our choice: Only the NDP will ensure that tuition fees are reduced and that Ontario universities have the funds they need to stay public.

UNIVERSITIES - A Provincial Election Issue

SOARING FEES AND UNDERFUNDING

In the 1990s, the Conservative government made deep funding cuts to post-secondary education, de-regulated tuition fees and allowed private universities. The Liberals failed to reverse funding cuts; today, Ontario ranks second last in provincial funding for post-secondary education.

- Since McGuinty took the freeze off tuition fees, tuition fees have skyrocketed, making it increasingly difficult for working families and CUPE members, who are also students, to attend university.
- University workers are losing jobs to privatization, contracting out and attrition.
- Infrastructure is crumbling, causing significant health and safety risks to workers and students.
- There is more commercialization and corporate sponsorship of buildings, public spaces, and specialized departments and curriculums.

Only the NDP is committed to fixing the funding formula and restoring funding levels needed to ensure that children succeed.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write or call your MPP and candidates and ask them the four questions in this leaflet.
2. When a candidate comes knocking at your door, pose the four questions and ask for their commitment.
3. Work on the campaigns of NDP candidates to elect MPPs who support our issues.

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Candidates' Questions

1. Will you stop the privatization of public services and public-private partnerships (P3s) that lead to the loss of good jobs and higher costs for these services?
2. Universities are crumbling. Will you support increase funding for expansion, repairs and maintenance? Will you commit to having this work done in-house and stop the contracting out that is occurring at universities?
3. Will you commit to restoring adequate government funding to universities to stop the commercialization and privatization of campuses?
4. Will you work to reduce tuition fees so that working families can attend university without incurring a huge debt? Will you press for the revamping of the student loan system so that banks are not making huge profits on the backs of students?

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Put People First***

PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVICE

KEY ISSUES

With public services anyone, regardless of where they work or live, or how much money they make, has equality of access to services like education, health and social services.

The Conservatives have always favoured privatization. The Liberals say they promote public services, but only protect them when there is a public outcry. These parties are two sides of the same coin.

- The Conservatives started the concept of public-private partnerships (P3s) in the hospital sector. The Liberals have now introduced 12 privatized (P3) hospitals. There would have been more if not for the constant campaigning by CUPE Ontario, and its partners including the Ontario Health Coalition. That pressure also forced the Liberals to narrow the scope of privatization to only “bricks and mortar” and forced them to rename P3 to AFPs – alternative financing and procurement.
- Both parties have starved cities and universities of funds. This has led to increased privatization of arenas, libraries, campuses and buildings as municipalities look for short-term fixes that, in reality, will cost them more in the long run by putting taxpayers’ dollars into private profits. Publicly delivered services have been constantly proven to provide better service and value.
- Contracting out and competitive bidding in the public sector has driven down wages and resulted in loss of benefits and jobs for workers.
- Power generation continues to be privatized; the Liberals are also encouraging renewable green power sources to be built by private corporations.

THE PARTIES – REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Contracted out vast numbers of public sector jobs to lowest bidders; aggressively anti-public sector
- In favour of private for-profit health care and funding private religious schools

Liberals

- Underfunding of front line workers leading to job losses; precarious work in all public sectors
- Encouraging contracting out and privatization of services with increases in P3 projects
- Have done nothing to reverse the privatization of hydro electric power

NDP

- Champion of publicly funded and delivered services
- Clear about its commitment to public power generation and delivery, public water, public infrastructure and other programs
- Will ensure that government funds go into public services, not privatization and Bay Street profits

CUPE ONTARIO’S POSITION

Only the NDP is a champion of publicly funded and delivered services.

PUBLIC SERVICES - A Provincial Election Issue

KEY ISSUES

With public services anyone, regardless of where they work or live, or how much money they make, has equality of access to services like education, health and social services.

The Conservatives have always favoured privatization. The Liberals say they promote public services but only protect them when there is a public outcry.

- The Liberals have introduced 12 privatized (P3) hospitals – a concept which the Conservatives started. There would have been more if not for constant campaigning by CUPE Ontario and its partners.
- Both parties have starved cities and universities of funds, leading to increased privatization of arenas, libraries, campuses and buildings.
- Power generation continues to be privatized; the Liberals are also encouraging renewable green power sources to be built by private corporations.

Only the NDP is a champion of publicly funded and delivered services.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write or call your MPP and candidates and ask them the questions in this leaflet.
2. When a candidate comes knocking at your door, pose the questions and ask for their commitment.
3. Go to all-candidates' meetings; make public health care an issue with the audience by posing the questions to candidates.

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Candidates' Questions

1. Will you work to stop the privatization of public services, including Public-Private Partnerships (P3s), Alternative Financing Procurements (AFPs) or any other name for privatization of public services that leads to the loss of good jobs, higher costs and loss of public accountability for these services?
2. Do you agree that contracting out and competitive bidding in the public sector results in the driving down of wages and the loss of benefits to workers? Will you actively oppose contracting out and competitive bidding in the public sector?
3. Will you promote public ownership and operation of municipal services – like water and sewage treatment, garbage disposal and recycling, arenas and libraries – and oppose privatization?

It's Time to Put People First

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.

GOOD JOBS - A Provincial Election Issue

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.

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.

The Tories destroyed labour laws and took away the rights of workers. The Liberals have yet to fully restore many of these laws. While some funding has been provided to enforce employment standards, there's not enough being done to go after 'dead-beat bosses.'

With initiatives like public-private partnerships (P3s) and Alternative Financing Procurements (AFPs), the Liberals and Conservatives have actively promoted the privatization of public services. Public sector jobs support local economies and their tax bases and should be protected.

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

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write or call your MPP and candidates and ask them the questions in this leaflet.
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Candidates' Questions

1. Will you work to stop the privatization of public services (P3s) that leads to the loss of good jobs and higher costs for these services?
2. Will you restore labour laws with "card check certification" for all Ontario workplaces so that unions can organize workplaces without harassment from employers?
3. Will you work to create a 'Made in Canada' policy that will help keep good jobs in Canada, including jobs in smaller and northern communities in the province?



***It's Time to
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ENDING POVERTY

KEY ISSUES

More than 1.6 million, or 1 in 7 people, live in poverty in Ontario. According to a 2006 United Nations report, poverty rates remain high among disadvantaged groups including Aboriginals, immigrants, people with disabilities, youth and single mothers.

In the 1990s, the Conservative government targeted Ontario's most vulnerable people in order to free up money to provide tax cuts for the wealthy. The Tories slashed social assistance, ended rent control, froze the minimum wage, snatched away the National Child Benefit from those on assistance, and curtailed access to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits.

The Liberals promised a 'kinder, gentler, more caring' society yet they have done little to reverse the disastrous policies of the Tories. They have not raised social assistance and ODSP benefits enough for people to meet basic needs nor have they ended the clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplement. They refuse to implement a \$10 minimum wage now and only because of an immense lobby did they agree to raise the wage to \$10.25 by 2010. Yet Liberals recently voted in a huge pay raise for MPPs.

Public services that are accessible to everyone such as affordable not-for-profit child care, affordable housing, public education and health care are part of the social wage that provides the basis for justice and equality in our province. Unfortunately, the Liberals and Conservatives have continued to capitulate to corporate pressure to downsize government and cheat workers of these social wages that took years of struggle to create.

THE PARTIES – REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Froze the minimum wage for over a decade; ended rent control.
- Cut social assistance benefits; curtailed access to the Ontario Disability Access Program (ODSP).

Liberals

- Refused to implement a \$10 minimum wage now yet gave MPPs a huge pay raise.
- Won't end clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplement until 2011.

NDP

- Will raise the minimum wage to \$10 NOW; will pursue ambitious public transit expansion.
- Will protect seniors from skyrocketing property tax increases.
- Will tackle related issues on the social wage of child care, housing, education and decent jobs.

CUPE ONTARIO'S POSITION ...

Our choice: Only the NDP will raise the minimum wage now to \$10 and provide the social supports needed to help end poverty.

POVERTY - A Provincial Election Issue

KEY ISSUES

More than 1.6 million, or 1 in 7 people, live in poverty in Ontario. The Conservative government cut social assistance, ended rent control, froze the minimum wage and curtailed access to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits – all aimed at society's most vulnerable.

The Liberals promised a 'kinder, gentler, more caring' society yet they have not raised social assistance and ODSP benefits enough for people to meet basic needs, nor have they acted quickly to end clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplement.

They have also refused to implement a \$10 minimum wage now, yet recently voted in a huge pay raise for MPPs.

The Liberals and Conservatives have continued to capitulate to corporate pressure to downsize government and cheat workers out of public services like affordable child care and housing, public education and health care that took years of struggle to create.

Only the NDP will raise the minimum wage now to \$10 and provide the social supports needed to help end poverty.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

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Candidates' Questions

1. Will you work to stop the privatization of public services (P3s) that leads to the loss of good jobs and higher costs for these services?
2. Will you support the implementation of a \$10 minimum wage now with regular increases to match the cost of living?
3. Will you work to restore social assistance rates and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates to pre-1995 levels so that people can meet their basic needs?
4. Will you end the clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplement now, not in 2011?

***Get a commitment from your
provincial election candidates
to end poverty!***

***It's Time to
Put People First***

EQUALITY DENIED

KEY ISSUES

The Ontario Human Rights Commission was a key engine to help guarantee equality in Ontario. The Conservatives slashed its budget and the Liberals have severely cut the Commission's ability to provide help because it will no longer investigate or deal with complaints. The McGuinty government has effectively privatized the system. People with human rights complaints will now need to hire lawyers to go through the Human Rights tribunals process. All this does is line the pockets of lawyers.

Under Ontario's NDP government, human rights flourished with employment equity laws for the public sector and the police, and fully funded proxy Pay Equity. The Conservatives abruptly cancelled Employment Equity laws, and refused to fund proxy Pay Equity in the broader public sector. The Liberals have not introduced affirmative action initiatives nor restored full proxy Pay Equity—they recently announced that funding, that was forced on the government by a court case, will end.

Both the Liberals and Conservatives have been no friend of newcomers to the province. Cutbacks in ESL programs, and failure to address recognition of credentials for foreign-trained workers, have fuelled poverty among newcomers and racialized groups.

Aboriginal peoples have not fared well either. The Liberals have failed to provide justice for Aboriginal land claims, or address unacceptable living conditions on reserves. While ultimately a federal responsibility, provincial politicians have a responsibility to act on behalf of residents. Boil water advisories continue to be issued in Aboriginal communities, and residents in Kashechewan, for example, have received no relief other than to be evacuated because of tainted water.

The Conservative record on Aboriginal issues is even worse. As the recent inquiry into the killing of Dudley George demonstrated, the Harris Tories approach to Aboriginal peoples and their issues led to the Ipperwash tragedy.

THE PARTIES REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Cancelled NDP government's Employment Equity laws; refused to fund proxy Pay Equity
- Slashed Human Rights Commission budget; responsibility for Ipperwash tragedy

Liberals

- Have not restored full proxy Pay Equity since NDP brought in funding
- Curtailed access to Human Rights Commission by privatizing system; no justice for Aboriginal land claims

NDP

- Will re-establish an independent anti-racism secretariat; opposed to privatization of Human Rights Commission
- Would establish independent body to support foreign-trained professionals

CUPE ONTARIO'S POSITION ...

Our choice: Only the NDP consistently supports policies to assist equality-seeking people and foreign-trained professionals.

EQUALITY - A Provincial Election Issue

Key Issues

The Ontario Human Rights Commission was a key engine to help guarantee equality in Ontario. The Conservatives slashed its budget and the Liberals have severely limited the Commission's ability to provide help.

The Conservatives cancelled the NDP government's employment equity laws, and refused to fund proxy Pay Equity in the broader public sector after it was introduced by the NDP. The Liberals have not restored full proxy pay equity nor introduced any affirmative action initiatives.

Cutbacks in ESL programs and failure to address recognition for foreign-trained workers have fuelled poverty among newcomers and racialized groups.

While ultimately a federal responsibility, the Liberal government has not helped provide justice for Aboriginal land claims or address unacceptable living conditions on reserves.

The Harris Conservative record is even worse. Their approach led to the Ipperwash tragedy and the killing of Dudley George.

Only the NDP consistently supports policies to assist disadvantaged people and foreign-trained professionals.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write or call your MPP and candidates and ask them the questions in this leaflet.
2. When a candidate comes knocking at your door, pose the questions and ask for their commitment.
3. Go to all-candidates' meetings; make public health care an issue with the audience by posing the questions to candidates.

For daily election updates, check

www.cupe.on.ca



Candidates' Questions

1. Will you work to stop the privatization of public services (P3s) that leads to the loss of good jobs and higher costs for these services?
2. Will you support increased funds and a renewed mandate for the Ontario Human Rights Commission so that Ontarians can have full access to a human rights investigation and support without the aid of a lawyer?
3. Will you work to restore full funding from the Province to pay the costs associated with proxy pay equity plans in public sector workplaces?
4. Do you support stronger measures to settle Aboriginal land claims in a more just and timely manner?

Get a commitment from your provincial election candidates to work for equality!

It's Time to Put People First

OUR TROUBLED ENVIRONMENT

KEY ISSUES

Ontario's environmental issues continue to suffer from neglect. Neither the Conservative nor Liberal governments have made a provincial commitment to meet Kyoto targets. As smog days increase, the Liberals have no real plan to limit emissions.

In the 1990s, the Conservative government destroyed Ontario's ability to regulate its environmental quality in the public interest. They also made the largest cuts to the Ministry of the Environment in our province's history. By privatizing hydro generation and therefore tying it to free trade agreements, the Conservatives reduced Ontario's ability to control emissions.

The Liberals have failed to reverse the Conservatives' legislation barring public power utilities from pursuing green power generation, thereby allowing the private sector to reap profits from renewable energy. What Ontario really needs is a commitment to developing and investing in a real conservation program led by public power utilities and others in the public sector, which includes a plan for new, green jobs in the province.

Both Conservatives and Liberals favour incineration of garbage, which also puts these services into the hands of private corporations. The Liberals appear to be backing away from a plan for 60% waste diversion from landfill.

Boil water advisories continue to be issued right in communities across the province, especially on First Nations' reserves. And beaches and swimming areas are frequently closed due to crumbling infrastructure. Conservative government cuts to public service staff and regulatory cutbacks were a factor in the Walkerton tragedy. And today, the Liberals continue to fall short on clean water targets laid out in the Walkerton inquiry.

THE PARTIES REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- No commitment to Kyoto; privatized electricity generation; favour incineration of garbage
- Cuts to public service staff and regulatory cutbacks were a factor in Walkerton tragedy

Liberals

- No commitment to Kyoto; backing away from landfill diversion in favour of burning garbage
- Paying lip service to conservation; no real plan for the environment

NDP

- Will meet Kyoto targets; 'Right to Know' law would reduce exposure to toxins; committed to full Public Power and tough energy efficiency targets
- Committed to integrating environmental platform into a plan that builds communities, saves and creates jobs, respects public services and meets environmental challenges in a way that will not negatively impact working families

CUPE ONTARIO'S POSITION ...

Our choice: Only the NDP will meet Kyoto targets and table 'Right to Know' laws regarding carcinogens and toxins.

ENVIRONMENT - A Provincial Election Issue

Key Issues

Ontario's environmental issues continue to suffer from neglect. Neither the Conservative nor Liberal governments have made a provincial commitment to meet Kyoto targets. As smog days increase, there is no real plan to limit emissions.

By privatizing hydro generation and tying it to free trade agreements, Ontario has reduced its ability to control emissions. Liberals have failed to reverse Conservative legislation barring public power utilities from pursuing green power generation, allowing the private sector to profit from renewable energy.

Both Conservatives and Liberals favour incineration of garbage, which also puts these services into the hands of private corporations. The Liberals backed away from a plan for 60% waste diversion from landfill.

Conservative government cuts to public service staff and regulatory cutbacks were a factor in the Walkerton tragedy. The Liberals continue to fall short on clean water targets laid out in the Walkerton inquiry.

Only the NDP will meet Kyoto targets and table 'Right to Know' laws regarding carcinogens and toxins.

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Candidates' Questions

1. Will you work to stop the privatization of public services (P3s) that leads to the loss of good jobs and higher costs for these services?
2. Will you reverse legislation barring public power utilities from green power generation? Will you use public power utilities to make a major investment in public renewable energy?
3. Will you commit to developing and investing in a real conservation program, led by public power utilities and others in the public sector, which includes a plan for new, green jobs?
4. Would you ensure that working families are not forced to pay the price for more environmentally- friendly practices with a plan that assists all residents to convert to greener practices without undue hardship?

 ***It's Time to
Put People First***