

# CUPE Ontario Pre-Budget Submission — Overview

Because of austerity, Ontario is in trouble. Consumer spending is maxed out, the housing market is cooling, corporations are not investing despite sitting on \$600 billion in cash, and government spending cuts are set to reduce economic growth by 3 per cent over the next two years. Premier Kathleen Wynne said she wants to make Ontario “#1 for economic growth.” It can be done, but not unless the new government is willing to admit the failures of the past and try something new.

Investments in public services and infrastructure produce more jobs and GDP growth than tax cuts. Investing in public services and infrastructure will stimulate growth and reduce inequality. Our submission details concrete ways the government can help the people of Ontario.

Key recommendations include:

## Tax fairness

Restore revenue from recent corporate tax cuts, close loopholes, introduce financial transactions tax, other measures that won't affect most Ontarians: \$9-13 billion annual new revenue

## Poverty

Raise social assistance to pre-1996 levels and raise minimum wage; expand services to eliminate wait lists for developmental services

## Health care

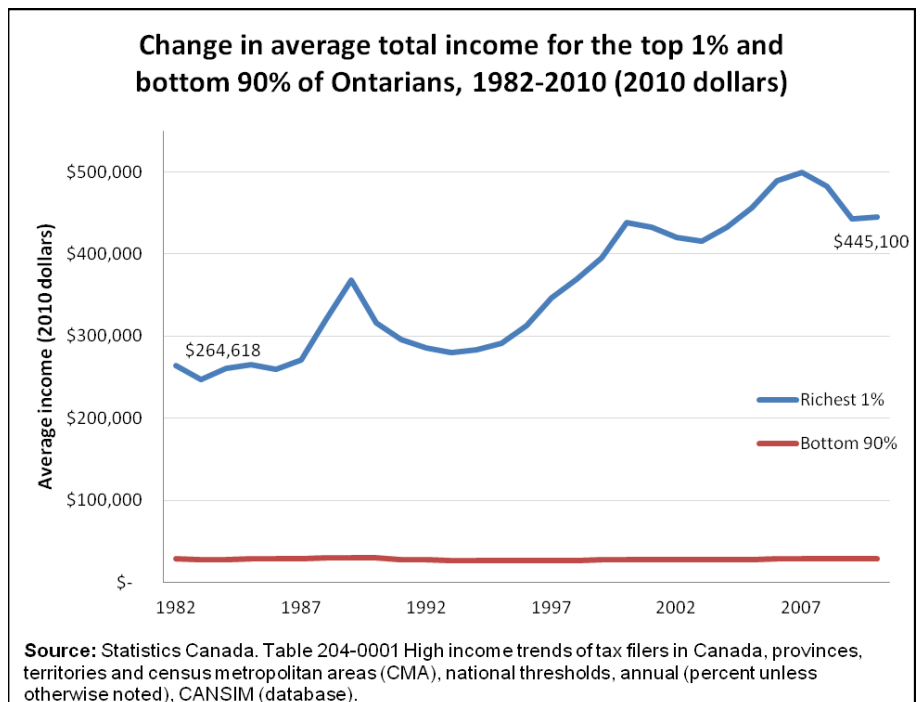
Fund hospitals for real cost increases of 5.8% annually; fund minimum care standard for residents of long-term care homes; invest in not-for-profit and public long-term care and home care; raise minimum standards for PSW wages in home care and establish minimum work week

## Child care and children's services

Increase child care funding by \$300 million to prevent closures; increase funding for community social services by \$67 million; moratorium on licensing for-profit corporate child care companies

## Infrastructure

Continue upgrad of municipal services; restore 70/30 transit funding ratio; reverse privatization of ONTC and increase northern rail access; housing strategy to deal with need for 750,000 new/renovated homes; pursue green energy but reverse reliance on private power sources; adequately fund transition to full-day kindergarten and restore School Operations Grant and Special Education Grant



### Public, transparent use of public money

Stop contracting out public service jobs and stop promoting poverty wages; commit to public financing, building, operation and maintenance of new infrastructure; end wasteful use of public-private partnerships; create transparent funding for post-secondary institutions

### Promote labour peace

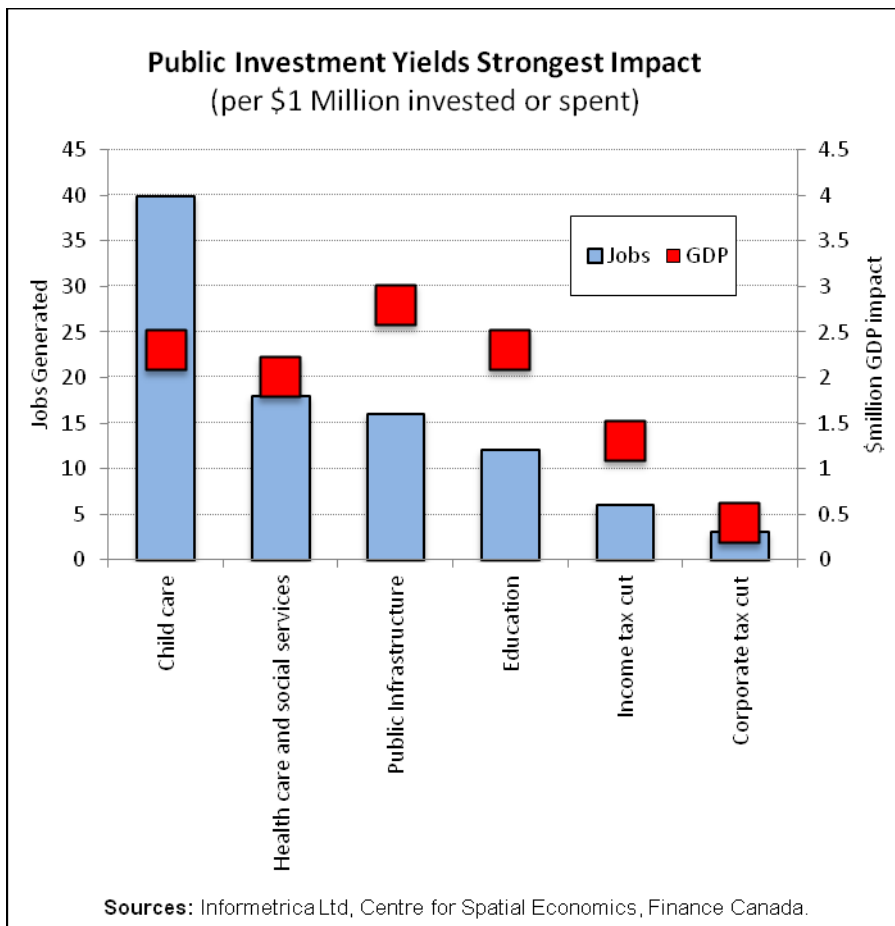
The chaos caused by Bill 115 began with the last provincial budget. A budget bill should not include attacks on the rights of Ontarians.

In the 2013 budget, the government must affirm respect for collective bargaining rights and allow collective bargaining in the broader public sector to proceed free of government interference; respect the neutrality of contract arbitration and leave the systems of contract arbitration free from tampering

### Conclusion

The 2012 Ontario budget left millions of Ontarians waiting for public services, good jobs and real measures to address poverty. Pursuing the fiscal course of the McGuinty Liberals would increase inequality and would prevent Ontario from becoming number one for growth.

Pursuing this austerity agenda will withdraw \$20 billion from the Ontario economy and cost the province 100,000 jobs, according to the Centre for Spatial Economics (C4SE).



Instead of stalling the economy and increasing inequality, CUPE Ontario proposes an agenda of change that will reduce income inequality and provide positive change for the two million Ontarians on wait lists and living in poverty. It is an agenda that will build the province's infrastructure and the vital public services that support Ontario residents and encourage growth.