

ON YOUR SIDE:

The Ontario NDP
Plan for Southwest
Ontario & Niagara



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Introduction

Ontario should be a province full of opportunity. A place where you can find a home, easily access world class health care and get your kids the right support in school. Where you can find a good job and the basics are affordable.

But after 7 long years of Doug Ford's bad deals and costly scandals, life is more expensive in Ontario. Here in Southwest Ontario, we see the impact of a government that has neglected the things that matter most.

This election, we can change that.



Marit Stiles and the Ontario NDP are on your side to make life more affordable.

We'll hire doctors, build homes, fix schools and defend Ontario jobs and incomes from the impacts of Trump's tariffs.

We'll get to work investing in your community and building up Southwest Ontario, so that we can restore the promise of a good life for people.

Here are our commitments for Southwest Ontario.



Fighting against rising costs

We will provide a recurring Monthly Grocery Rebate that is based on how much the cost of essential groceries like milk, bread and vegetables have increased under Ford and is tied to income and the number of people in your household.

We'll bring transparency to grocery prices by forcing big retailers to publicly post when they raise prices more than two per cent in a week. We'll crack down on price fixing and other unfair practices by establishing a new watchdog to enforce competition laws and keep food prices fair.

To protect tenants and our existing supply of affordable homes, we'll bring in real **rent control to keep costs from climbing.**

We will create a universal School Food Program so that every child, from Perth to Windsor to Niagara, is set up to succeed, and to help save families money every day. We will support local farms by using fresh food prepared and grown right here in Ontario.

We will deliver on \$10/day child care after years of delays by Ford's government, and create 53,000 new, public or not-for-profit affordable childcare spaces, and establish a regional waitlist to make it easier to find quality child care close to home.

We will make commuting across the region more affordable, reliable and convenient by expanding intercity bus and rail transit.

Commuters in Niagara will finally be able to ride on the long-planned and long-delayed expansions and improvements to the GO Lakeshore West rail line, including moving ahead on the Grimsby GO station and restoring reliable express GO service. We will advance planning for expanded GO rail service to communities such as Cambridge, Guelph, and London. We will also fund Phase 2 of the Waterloo ION LRT.

We will make it easier for seniors to age at home safely with reliable access to home care and a monthly Caregiver Benefit for those caring for loved ones at home. We will make it more affordable for seniors to make renovations that will help them age at home.

We will eliminate parking fees at hospitals for staff, visitors and patients. No one should be worried about paying for parking at a hospital during an affordability crisis, whether you are a patient, a loved one, a front-line worker or a doctor.

We'll make it easier to form a union and collect the bigger paycheck that comes with it, by returning to a simple card certification system. We'll remove any barriers to a newly unionized workplace's first contract being implemented, and ban the use of replacement workers during job disputes.



Public health care that's there when you need it

We'll hire more doctors and nurses for southwestern Ontario: 400,000 people across the Southwest don't have a doctor, and that will rise next year as more doctors retire and leave the system. We will invest \$4.1 billion over four years to ensure everyone in Ontario has access to team-based primary care.

We will bring in safe **nurse-patient ratios** for better care and **end the reliance on for-profit private nursing agencies** that are costing hospitals hundreds of millions of dollars.

We will expedite Windsor-Essex Regional Hospital, restore 24/7 emergency services to Welland Hospital, deliver a new hospital for Brantford and restore service to Fort Erie and Port Colborne Urgent Care. Ensure funding continues to plan responsibly for a new Regional Hospital in Kitchener-Waterloo.

We will increase funding to community mental health service providers, like CMHA and AMHO, that provide crucial services to help people with addictions. We will establish wage parity for health care workers in community settings to ensure community primary care providers can also offer mental health support. We will fund the addition of detox beds and residential treatment beds.

Building more homes you can afford

We will get Ontario back to building with Homes Ontario, the largest homebuilding program in generations. Homes Ontario will provide grants and low-cost financing to enable more non-market housing providers, like Mel Swart Co-Operative Homes and Welland's Commonwealth Cooperative, to build on the long history of co-operative housing in the Niagara region. We will speed up the purchase of existing privately-owned rental units, to be converted to permanently affordable public, non-profit or co-op housing.

We will create 60,000 new supportive housing units province-wide, allowing people living in encampments or the shelter system to move into a safe, permanent home, while connecting them to mental health care, addiction treatment and other ongoing supports.

Fixing schools and setting kids up for success

We will reverse Ford's education cuts and invest in a new, needs-based funding formula. The Ford government has cut education funding by \$1,500 per student since 2018, leaving schools with fewer teachers and larger class sizes.

We will fix schools with an additional \$830 million per year. The Greater Essex County District School Board has a staggering \$400 million in deferred maintenance, and more than half of London schools require urgent repairs. In Kitchener-Waterloo, close to 45% of the region's public schools are below a state of good repair. Our children deserve safe, well-maintained schools where they can learn and grow without disruption – our plan will clear the backlog within 10 years.





Defending jobs and building a tariff-proof Ontario

Donald Trump's tariffs threaten to make life even more expensive than it's become under Doug Ford. Marit Stiles and the Ontario NDP will defend jobs, fight back and build a resilient, more tariff-proof Ontario:

- We will work with affected industries in **auto, agriculture and steel, and tourism**, alongside labour unions, to defend every job, help businesses find new markets, promote Ontario-made goods and direct government to procure locally.
- We'll fight back hard with a smart, targeted tariff response as part of Team Canada because we're stronger together.
- We will support Ontario industries to find new markets, invest in retraining and accelerate local infrastructure projects to keep people working.

We will invest in EVs and ensure Ontario is a leader in North America for EV manufacturing.

We will bring back EV rebates, install EV charging infrastructure and reintroduce EV-readiness building code requirements to protect the jobs in the EV and manufacturing sector from Windsor to London and foster a domestic market.

Supporting the Innovation Sector: Our Buy Ontario procurement directive will help create new jobs in our homegrown tech sector in the Kitchener-Waterloo region and help scale up businesses to reach new markets. We will attract new business and the next generation of innovators by investing in what they look for: affordable homes, good schools, strong public transit – a high quality of life.

We will bring back the Stay-cation Tax Credit to encourage tourism and travel within Ontario. This will help stabilize Niagara region tourism recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and the threat of tariffs.

Innovation starts with education. We will support the tech and innovation sector in Kitchener-Waterloo and Niagara. We're committed to investing in public post-secondary education, permanently increasing base funding and investing in research and innovation to maintain our competitive edge.

An Ontario NDP government would completely remove the cap from the Risk Management Program, ensuring the government has the tools it needs to protect Ontario farmers and the jobs they support.



Stronger Southwest

We'll take back provincial responsibilities that Tories and Liberals downloaded onto municipalities: Municipal leaders in the region say they're carrying a disproportionate load of investing in housing, homelessness and transit. The province will back financial responsibility for affordable housing, shelters and homelessness prevention programs, while maintaining locally focused delivery in partnership with municipal service managers. We'll cost share municipal transit operating funding 50-50 to improve reliability and affordability. We will recognize Intimate Partner Violence as an epidemic, and ensure survivors have the support they need to get on their feet, including emergency shelters.

We'll improve reliability and affordability of local public transit by restoring a 50/50 cost sharing relationship with municipalities. This will help ensure dependable service and prevent the need to raise fares.

We'll expand highway 40 to Sarnia and fix Carnage Alley, the most dangerous section of Hwy 401, where the Ford government failed to prioritize concrete safety barriers. The province will take back financial responsibility for formerly provincially owned controlled-access highways and for "Connecting Link" highways whose costs were unfairly downloaded onto municipalities, like the EC Row Expressway in Windsor.

We will protect the Niagara Escarpment and restore the power of Conservation Authorities to review such projects that threaten our farmland, groundwater and wetland systems. We will prevent new aggregate pits or quarries, including the proposed new quarries near Mt. Nemo and in Campbellville, and the proposed dumpsite in Dresden.

We will protect prime farmland and stop the unfair and secretive Wilmot land grab, focusing development sensibly and cost-effectively within existing urban boundaries.

With the looming threat of tariffs, we will defend families, jobs, and businesses in Southwest Ontario. We will partner with Ontario employers and unions in Windsor, Niagara, Sarnia and the rest of the region to protect the jobs of Ontario workers. We will support the tech and innovation sector in London, Kitchener-Waterloo and Niagara. Ontarians need a government that won't leave them behind and defend our families against hard economic times.

We will deliver on the Ojibway National Urban Park in Windsor: The Ford government is renegeing on its promise to transfer provincial lands to complete this new urban park. An NDP government will transfer these lands immediately and complete the work to get the park established.

