

ON YOUR SIDE IN TORONTO



ONTARIO
NDP  **NPD**

Ontario should be a province full of opportunity.

A place where you can find a home, easily access the health care you need, and where kids are supported from day one to have the best shot in life.

Where you can find a good job and the cost of the basics doesn't take up your whole pay cheque.

A place where you're excited, not worried, for the future.

That's the Ontario that first brought me here some 30 years ago after growing up in Newfoundland, and it's why I stayed – to raise my daughters and build a good life for my family. We put down roots right here in Toronto.

But today, life in Ontario feels harder than ever – especially in Toronto. Housing costs are out of control, it's harder to find a doctor, and things keep getting more expensive.

7 years of Doug Ford have cost you.

He's spent his time as Premier settling old scores with Toronto while neglecting the things that matter most.

This election, we can change that, with new leadership and new ideas.

As Premier, I'll be on your side in the fight against rising costs.

I'll lead a government with integrity that will get to work straight away, hiring more doctors, fixing schools, building homes and defending Ontario jobs.

I'm proud of our strong Toronto team, hard-working representatives who show up every day for working people.

Together, we'll make Queen's Park a trusted partner for Toronto, not an adversary.

We'll build on the things that make Toronto such a great place to live and restore the promise of a good life as part of a stronger Ontario.

These are our commitments for Toronto:



Marit Stiles,
Leader, Ontario NDP



Fighting Against Rising Costs

After seven years of Doug Ford's Conservatives, life is more expensive than ever – from the basics, like groceries to the cost of housing. His bad deals and wasteful schemes have cost us all. We will take immediate action to fight rising costs.

Government spending should reflect the real priorities of Ontarians. That means no wasteful projects like fantasy tunnels, luxury mega spas, or other vanity projects.

Instead, we will focus on public dollars on health care, housing, education, and infrastructure that benefits the people of Ontario.

We will provide a 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 will bring transparency to grocery prices by forcing big retailers to publicly display signage when they raise prices on basic grocery items more than two per cent in a week (by weight, to protect against shrinkflation), and we'll crack down on price fixing and other unfair practices by establishing a new consumer watchdog to keep food prices fair.

We will bring in real rent control, also known as vacancy control, to protect tenants and maintain our existing supply of affordable homes. This means making sure landlords can't jack up the rent between tenants, so you pay what the last tenant paid. That's how we'll protect renters from sky rocketing rents.

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



We will deliver \$10/day child care after years of delays by Ford's government. We will create 53,000 new, public or not-for-profit affordable childcare spaces province-wide by working with providers and service managers, and by removing the rules that limit municipalities in creating their own child care spaces. We will end the stress and uncertainty of applying at dozens of child care centres and following up endlessly to secure a spot by establishing a single Daycare Application Portal to make it easier to find quality childcare close to home.

We will double social assistance rates for ODSP and OW to get people out of deep poverty and boost the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program to help more people move out of shelters into homes, freeing up shelter beds in the process.

We will provide free or discounted electric heat pumps to Ontario households, with access to easy interest-free financing. Heat pump rebates of up to \$19,500 will be available depending on household income, with an additional \$5,000 available for households that heat with propane, heating oil, or coal.

We will also enhance Ontario's SaveONEnergy Energy Affordability program to provide retrofit support to renters and low-income households, ensuring fair access to Ontario's energy savings programs.

Repair, revitalize, reopen the Ontario Science Centre and cancel the deal to hand over Ontario Place to a luxury spa company, saving the equivalent of \$400 a household.



Public Health Care that's there when you need it

Ontario's public health care system has been broken by consecutive Liberal and Conservative governments who have opened the door for corporations to make a profit off of vulnerable people. New Democrats brought publicly funded, publicly delivered health care to Canada and Marit Stiles and the Ontario NDP will strengthen and protect it.

We will ensure every Ontarian has a family doctor, with our Family Health Guarantee.

We will add 3,500 more doctors to the primary care system, hire more nurse practitioners, health care workers and support staff and invest in publicly funded, publicly delivered health care. We will invest \$4.1 billion over four years to connect people to team-based primary care, close to home. That means additional funding for community health centres, nurse practitioner led clinics, and Indigenous Primary Care organizations.

We will train and hire more nurses to ensure safe nurse-patient ratios, better care and an end to the reliance on for-profit private nursing agencies that are costing hospitals hundreds of millions of dollars.

We'll make sure health care workers are paid fairly by introducing wage parity across the health care system so that workers in home care are paid the same rate as their counterparts in hospitals. We will introduce a monthly Caregiver Benefit for those caring for loved ones at home.

We'll get back to building out Ontario's public hospital network and stop the privatization of health care services. We will fund hospitals to keep operating rooms running on evenings and weekends instead of redirecting funds to private, for-profit surgical centres. We will prioritize projects like expediting the new Scarborough Hospital.

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 will reduce wait times for patients and improve access to care by establishing a centralized and standardized referral system

to streamline the process of referring patients to specialists and reduce the administrative burden on doctors and their staff.

We will establish universal basic mental health care and increase funding to community mental health service providers,

like CMHA and AMHO, that provide crucial services to help people with addictions. We will follow the advice of experts and use evidence-based strategies to address the opioid epidemic. We will fund the addition of detox beds and residential treatment beds and establish wage parity for health care workers in community settings so they can also offer mental health support. We know harm reduction services save lives, prevent overdoses and can be a path to treatment, housing and other health services. We will follow evidence-based, harm reduction strategies to address the crises in mental health and addictions, with a public health focused approach to making life-saving harm reduction services accessible to those who need them, and undoing Ford's closures of these services.

Building homes you can afford

Housing is a human right. Everybody deserves a decent home they can afford, in the community they want to live in. But Doug Ford's failure to get homes built and keep rents down have made it nearly impossible for Ontarians to buy or rent a decent home they can afford. Housing starts are down, and homelessness up. Something has to change and fast.

We will clear the waitlist of 28,000 children and youth waiting for mental health care. We will ensure children and families have access to Autism services, particularly in Northern and Rural communities where services are even scarcer.

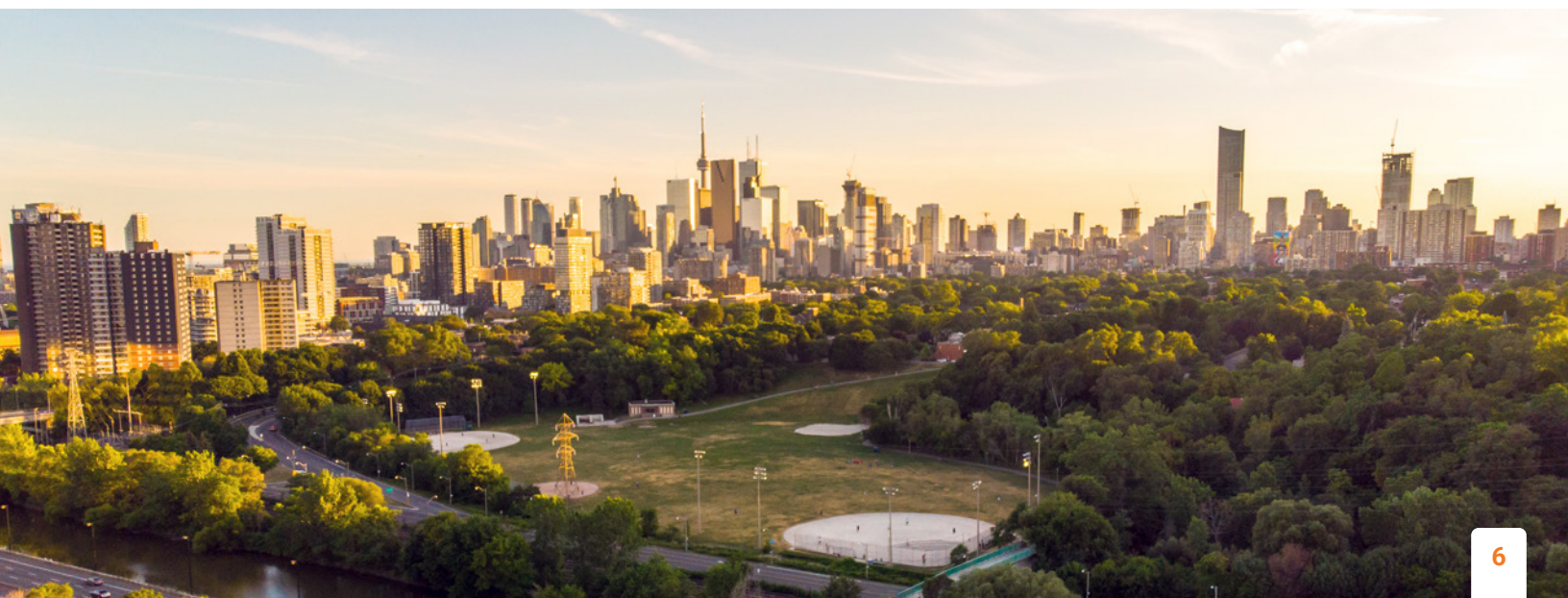
We will get Ontario back to building with Homes Ontario, the largest homebuilding program in generations. Homes Ontario will use grants, low-cost public financing, public land, fast-tracked approvals and other supports to enable the construction, acquisition and repair of at least 300,000 permanently affordable homes to be operated by public, non-profit and co-op housing providers. We will enable the purchase of existing privately-owned rental units, to be converted to permanently affordable public, non-profit or co-op housing, like Toronto's Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition (MURA) Program.

We will strengthen the enforcement powers of Ontario's Rental Housing Enforcement Unit, and make sure tenants' complaints about harassment,

poor maintenance, power or water outages, and broken elevators are addressed within 30 days. We will enforce tenants' right to a partial refund on rent when they are faced with long delays for repairs. We will also ban above guideline rent increases.

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.

We will help municipalities address their housing needs. We will upload the cost of housing, emergency shelters, and homelessness prevention programs back to the province, while maintaining locally focused delivery through municipal service managers. We'll work with municipalities to create incentives for affordable housing in the marketplace, including development charge easements.



We will protect renters by immediately introducing real rent control, also known as vacancy control, so rent control applies to the rental, and not just the tenancy. This will remove the incentive of unethical landlords to use bad faith evictions and renovations to squeeze out existing tenants so they can charge a higher rent to the next tenant. We will also close the loophole that exempts units built since 2018 from any rent control protections.

We will update zoning and planning rules to make it easier and cheaper to build all types of new homes, including legalizing more affordable options like semis, townhomes and fourplex apartments in all neighbourhoods, and midrises near transit as-of-right. We will also keep infrastructure costs down and protect farmland by focusing growth sustainably and cost-effectively within the pre-2022 urban boundaries.



Fixing schools and setting kids up for success

Schools are at the heart of our communities, but decades of cuts and freezes have left our schools overcrowded, understaffed, and in need of repairs. Every child, regardless of their income status, deserves a high-quality public education in safe schools that support their needs.

We will invest in our next generation with 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. In consultation with school boards and education workers, we'll review and fix school funding, so it meets the needs of kids.

We will fix schools with an additional \$830 million per year to clear the repair backlog within 10 years while keeping up with school maintenance needs and give students a high quality, nurturing learning environment. The TDSB continues to face an approximate \$4.5 billion maintenance and repair backlog, and 45.6% of Toronto Catholic District School Board buildings are below a state of good repair.

We will hire more staff in schools. We will support additional dedicated teachers, educational assistants, child and youth workers, ECEs, custodial and skilled trades workers to make sure students get the one-on-one attention they need in well-maintained schools. We will consult on the restoration of one year teacher's college programs to help get more qualified teachers in the system, faster.

We will reduce fees for before and after school child care, and negotiate with the federal government to expand \$10-a-day to school age children. We will re-evaluate dozens of child care projects cancelled under the Ford government, like the 20 projects cancelled in Scarborough.

We will support every learner. We'll make sure our public education system gives students with disabilities the support they deserve. We'll work with educators and school boards to continue de-streaming with adequate funding and support, and ensure we have the data to support more equitable schools.

We'll invest in public post-secondary education, increase per student funding by 20%, and tie future increases to inflation. Universities and colleges are at a breaking point, many posting deficits and cutting programming. Decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts have left Ontario with the lowest per-student funding in Canada for post-secondary education. We would work with the sector to review the funding formula to sustain Ontario's world class post-secondary education and keep up with growing demand and student needs.

We will reverse Ford's cuts to OSAP and convert all OSAP loans to grants so that all students graduate debt-free. We will cancel outstanding student loan interest owed.



Reliable, Accessible, and Affordable Transit

Public transit connects people to jobs, family and friends, healthcare and other important services and opportunities. Good transit means freedom and a stronger economy.

We'll invest in transit to boost ridership and make the TTC more reliable, frequent, affordable and accessible for riders, by restoring 50% provincial funding for municipal transit net operational costs. Better public transit means more people choosing to leave their car at home, easing traffic congestion for everyone.

We will build more public transit in Toronto:

- Get the troubled Eglinton Crosstown LRT and Finch West LRT projects back on track, ending the secrecy and needless disruption, and letting the public know on Day One when these long-delayed lines will begin running
- Ensure access to transit for Toronto's growing tower communities by funding the Waterfront East LRT, and completing the Mimico and Park Lawn GO stations
- We will deliver rapid transit to Scarborough North, Scarborough-Agincourt, Scarborough-Guildwood and Scarborough-Rouge Park by funding long-planned and long-delayed projects like the Sheppard extension and the Eglinton East LRT

We will fix Metrolinx. We will restore public accountability for stalled transit projects like the Eglinton LRT. We'll rebuild in-house expertise and end dependence on self-serving private consultants. We will end the use of wasteful and risky transit privatization schemes that cost more, deliver less, take longer, and keep the public in the dark. We'll bring forward fair compensation for small businesses along the Eglinton LRT route that have suffered because of long construction delays, like those in Midtown and Little Jamaica.

Connecting Toronto to the region. We will expand the GO bus and rail network so you can get around reliably, conveniently, comfortably and affordably without a car. That means new stations in Mimico and Parklawn, and more frequent service along the Lakeshore West line.

We will alleviate traffic on the 401 by removing tolls on Highway 407 and making this underused highway available to drivers for free.

We will help Ontario drivers make the switch to EVs to save money and support Ontario's auto sector, with income-tested rebates towards the purchase of an eligible new or used battery-electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid. Electric Vehicles produced overseas will be exempt from incentives where corporate leadership are hell-bent on destroying the Canadian economy.



Defending Ontario Jobs

In the face of American tariffs, people are worried about what the future holds, if they'll lose their job or if things will become even more expensive than they already are. As we face this serious economic challenge to our country and province, Doug Ford quit his job and plunged us into an election.

Marit Stiles will be a premier who's on our side in this fight. She will defend Ontario jobs, fight back as part of a strong Team Canada, and get to work building a more tariff-proof Ontario that can withstand future threats to our economy.

We will defend Ontario families, jobs, businesses and our economy. We will partner with Ontario industries and unions to protect the jobs and pensions of Ontario workers, especially in our auto-sector, steel, forestry and agricultural sectors. Ontarians need a government that won't leave them behind and will defend family incomes against hard economic times.

We will accelerate housing and infrastructure that can start immediately. Homes Ontario will help create thousands of new jobs in residential construction by fast-tracking building housing of all types and sizes and keeping skilled labour employed in periods of market slowdown. We will reprioritize critical transit projects like Line 2 in Toronto and GO transit expansion. We will support the industries that need help today with relief measures, to protect Ontario against the economic shock of Trump's tariffs.

We will secure family incomes with a federal-provincial income assistance plan to protect any worker who loses their job as a result of any tariffs. We will negotiate with the federal government to expand employment insurance and prevent any delays getting EI out to impacted workers. We will remove provincial income tax on any income supports for workers who experience tariff-related job loss so that they can keep more money in their pocket through a difficult time.

We will support Ontario small businesses, creating the conditions for local enterprises to thrive. We will work with the federal government to **support succession planning**, allowing owners to form employee ownership trusts and put in place incentives for the creation of trusts and employee-owned co-operatives. We will ensure that our Buy Ontario plan engages in **strategic government procurement from small and medium sized enterprises**, leveraging Ontario purchasing power to support Ontario talent. We will not increase taxes on Ontario small businesses. We will work with the small business community to develop and deliver the supports they need to create good jobs, including looking at changes to commercial rental protections.

We will take recommendations from the Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce to clear barriers for Black entrepreneurs and small business owners to access capital. We recognize that there are systemic challenges holding Black-owned business from reaching their full potential. We will work with community leaders and financial institutions to address anti-Black racism and access to investments and financial supports.

We will launch a Buy Ontario procurement plan to engage in strategic government procurement from small and medium-sized businesses and non-profits. The NDP will ensure that small businesses can compete with big industry and use public funds to invest in good jobs right here in Ontario. The NDP's Buy Ontario program will include a social procurement policy to support vendors who haven't always had a seat at the table, including Black, racialized, new immigrant, and other business owners.

We will implement a Community Benefits plan to ensure local communities benefit from infrastructure projects. The NDP will require future contracts for major infrastructure projects to contain provisions that mitigate the impact of construction on small businesses and also create good-paying local jobs and apprenticeship opportunities.

We will continue to propose real reforms that benefit workers that have been rejected by the Ford government including: 10-days paid leave; a living wage; equal pay; anti-scab legislation, and enforcement against workplace law violations, including severe penalties for unsafe work conditions. We will put an end to the practice of deeming where injured workers are 'deemed' to be able to work phantom jobs they don't have. We will overhaul the WSIB system to better protect the health and safety of all Ontario workers, protect them and their families in case of injury or disease at work, and provide stability for Ontario businesses.

We will properly classify app-based (gig economy) workers as employees and bring in equal pay legislation. We will properly classify the thousands of app-based (gig economy) workers in Toronto and the GTA as employees; bring in equal pay legislation, and we'll do what Liberal and the Doug Ford government never bothered to do, and crack down on wage theft, recovering millions of dollars of wages owed to Toronto workers - while preventing it from happening in the first place.

We will double Ontario's Career Ready Program so Ontario colleges and universities can create additional work-integrated learning opportunities. We'd create thousands of new, paid co-op and internship opportunities for young people.

We will establish Ontario's first Youth Climate Corps, giving opportunities to young Ontarians to learn skills and earn a fair wage while helping Ontario communities reduce their emissions, restore their natural environments, and become more resilient in a changing climate.

We will work with the diverse community of artists and creators in Toronto to promote and market Ontario's book publishing, film and television, live performance, digital and arts industries. We will ensure both the stability and competitiveness of Ontario's film, television and digital tax credits. And we will strongly support Ontario Creates and Ontario Arts Council programs to ensure people throughout the arts and culture sector have the support and respect they need. We will also partner with Ontario's francophone community to grow and promote book publishing, film and television, live performance, and cultural festivals in French – a key thread in the tapestry of our province.



Stronger, Safer Communities

We will fight racism and hate in Ontario. We will re-establish the Anti-Racism Secretariat to help communities stamp out hate. We will create Anti-Racism Councils to advocate on behalf of racialized communities and provide information, advice and recommendations to the government, through the minister, on all ethnocultural matters, including anti-racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and education, human rights, immigration, settlement and cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage.

We will recognize Intimate Partner Violence as an epidemic, and direct Ministries to coordinate improved access to services for survivors. We will restore the full Victims Compensation Fund so that survivors can escape dangerous situations and rebuild their lives. An Ontario NDP government will fight gender-based violence and properly fund women's shelters and transitional housing to ensure there are services and programs available to help women recover from intimate partner violence and abuse. Our Homes Ontario plan will include new units of affordable housing for women and their families escaping violence.

We will launch a 2SLGBTQIA Inclusive Action Plan to ensure government services like health care, education and long-term care are inclusive and welcoming. We would introduce a grant program to support 2SLGBTQIA+ community organizations to expand programming and services.

We will fully fund our court system to end the delays and keep communities safe, including:

- Hiring and increasing pay to court staff to maximize the number of hours courtrooms are open.
- Completing courtroom repairs, considering reopening shuttered courthouses, and building new courthouses in regions where there is not enough existing infrastructure.
- Funding Legal Aid Ontario so more Ontarians can access procedural assistance, legal information and legal advice.

