

# The Sanctity of Human Life: from Conception to Natural Death

Abortion, Euthanasia & Alternatives | Human Engineering | Contraception & Population Control

***The right to life from conception to natural death is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)***

## Catholic Teaching

Catholics care about the sanctity of life because the entire purpose of each soul God endows with life is to find its way back to God by loving God and caring for all the souls God has placed around it. Voluntary termination of life any time between conception and natural death necessarily frustrates that purpose.

The source of human dignity is the likeness to God that is bestowed on each of us at the moment we are conceived. We respond appropriately to this gift by using all the time, talent, and treasure that God has entrusted to us to seek and grow closer to God, by sharing in His continuing act of creation and caring for those around us. Our first purpose is to seek God, especially in one another. If we do that, everything else will be given to us. Anything that interferes with that is contrary to the Word of God. *Genesis chapter 1; Matthew chapters 6, 22 & 25*

### Abortion & Euthanasia

***“You shall not kill.”***  
*– the 5th Commandment*

The right to life from conception to natural death is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching, and in particular, implies the illicitness of every form of procured abortion and of euthanasia. – 155, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

*“This is not something subject to alleged reforms or ‘modernizations.’ It is not ‘progressive’ to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life. Who can remain unmoved before such painful situations?”*  
*- Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 214*

### Human Engineering

#### Cloning and Cell Manipulation

An issue of particular social and cultural significance today, because of its many and serious moral implications, is human cloning... the simple replication of normal cells or of a portion of DNA presents no particular ethical problem. Very different, however, is cloning understood in the proper sense. Such cloning is contrary to the dignity of human procreation because it takes place in total absence of an act of personal love between spouses, being agamic and asexual reproduction. In the second place, this type of reproduction represents a form of total domination over the reproduced



### Abortion

The party advocates:

- expanding the number of abortion clinics within the province, since all but one are currently located in the GTA or Ottawa
- ensuring that abortion clinics in Ontario are fully funded.

### Socially Assisted Death

As part of a plan to expand care options for people with complex needs, the party advocates recognizing suicide as a public health priority and investing in evidence-based prevention strategies that support the individual needs of people, including Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

### Human Engineering

#### Gender election

To strengthen in-school learning, the party advocates:

- establishing clearly visible all-gender washrooms and updating school communications to become more gender inclusive, recognising that gender exists on a spectrum.
- updating the curriculum to include informed discussions of 2SLGBTQIA+ prejudice.

**The party has published no official statement concerning its policies regarding:**

- population growth, birth control, or family planning



**The party has made no current official statement regarding its policies concerning:**

- abortion, euthanasia or alternatives
- human engineering
- contraception or population control

### Abortion & Alternatives for Mothers & Children

Prior to the previous election, the party stated that:

- during its prior term in office it made the abortion pill available at no charge and passed legislation to make sure Ontario women can access abortion services without fear of intimidation, harassment or interference.
- women's reproductive rights are at risk from those who don't believe women have the right to make decisions about their own health care.

At that time the party advocated:

- protecting and maintaining the publicly funded abortion services and reproductive health care programs currently available in Ontario.

### Socially Assisted Death (SAD)

Prior to the previous election, the party stated that:

- creating 30,000 new long-term beds over 10 years to improve community care, investing in mental health, addiction, rehab and dementia care, palliative and end-of-life care.

individual on the part of the one reproducing it...

Cloning for therapeutic use does not attenuate its moral gravity, because in order that such cells may be removed the embryo must first be created and then destroyed. 236, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

#### **Gender Election**

Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity. Physical, moral and spiritual difference and complementarities are oriented towards the goods of marriage and the flourishing of family life. -224 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Men and women with homosexual tendencies must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. – 358 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

#### **Population Growth; Birth Control; Family Planning**

Judgment concerning the interval of time between births, and that regarding the number of children, belongs to the spouses alone. This is one of their inalienable rights, to be exercised before God... The intervention of public authorities must be made in a way that fully respects the freedom of the couple. All programmes of economic assistance aimed at financing campaigns of sterilization and contraception are to be morally condemned as affronts to the dignity of the person and the family.

The answer to questions connected with population growth must instead be sought in simultaneous respect both of sexual morals and of social ethics, promoting greater justice and authentic solidarity so that dignity is given to life in all circumstances.

All reproductive techniques — such as the donation of sperm or ova, surrogate motherhood, heterologous artificial fertilization — that make use of the uterus of another woman or of gametes of persons other than the married couple, injuring the right of the child to be born of one father and one mother who are father and mother are ethically unacceptable both from a biological and from a legal point of view. – 234-235, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

#### **Population Growth, Birth Control, Family Planning**

The party states that during its prior term in office it:

- invested in programs to support moms and families, including the first publicly funded in-vitro fertilization program in Ontario, which has supported at least 27,000 families.
- expanded access to midwifery services across the province, launched Canada's first fetal treatment centre, and provided free prescription drugs to women under 25, including birth control.



#### **Abortion & Alternatives for Mothers & Children**

As part of its proposal for promoting public health care, the party advocates:

- expanding OHIP to include coverage for prescription contraception, the HPV vaccine at any age when recommended by a doctor, PrEP and PEP, and take-home cervical cancer test kits.

To promote public health care, the party advocates:

- working with experts, health care providers, patients and communities to ensure access to gender affirming care and breaking down barriers to accessing health care for all 2SLGBTQ+ Ontarians.

#### **Assisted Suicide**

To ensure that every Ontarian has access to compassionate, dignified, and quality end-of-life care, the party advocates:

- expanding the province's network of hospices and working with community care providers to establish a compassionate and accessible palliative care system; ensuring that every Ontarian who seeks access to medical assistance in dying receives it; and ensuring that terminally ill children and their families are provided with accessible and supportive end-of-life care.

#### **End of Life Care**

To ensure that every Ontarian has access to compassionate, dignified, and quality end-of-life care, the party advocates:

- expanding the province's network of hospices and working with community care providers to establish a compassionate and accessible palliative care system; ensuring that every Ontarian who seeks access to medical assistance in dying receives it; and ensuring that terminally ill children and their families are provided with accessible and supportive end-of-life care.

#### **Human Engineering & Population Control**

#### **Gender Election**

To remove barriers to the services and programs people need, and foster safety and inclusiveness in provincial institutions and public spaces so that every can live with pride at every age and stage of their life, the party advocates:

- ensuring that all necessary medicines, are accessible to everyone who needs them, including all transition drugs and medication.

#### **Contraception and Population Control**

To eliminate inequities for women and ensure women have access to the same opportunities as men, the party advocates:

- making contraception free, so that cost is not a barrier to individuals' ability to make choices about their reproductive health.



As of 23 February 2025, four days prior to the election it called, the party has published no comprehensive updated statement of its proposed policies.

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:

- it proposes to expand palliative care services in local communities by adding up to 84 new adult beds and 12 pediatric beds, bringing the total to over 750, in order to provide people with comfort and dignity closer to their communities and loved ones when they are nearing the end of life.

**The party has released no official statement concerning its policies on:**

- abortion and alternatives
- medically assisted suicide and alternatives
- gender election or other forms of human engineering
- population control

## Points to Ponder: The Sanctity of Human Life

**A conscience well formed by the social teachings of the Church will seriously consider the following questions:**

### **The Dignity and Meaning of Life, and Government Policy-Making Indexes**

It is a sad fact that many of our parties, along with many of our voters, have stopped talking about or even acknowledging the evils of abortion, Socially-Assisted Death (SAD), and other sins against the sanctity of the body and the dignity of life. Is this because we as a society have been distracted by the comforts and worries of modern life, and lost touch with the purpose of life? Are we simply hiding, like the timid steward of Matthew 25:18?

And what of our governments? For years, many (probably most) of our political parties have been fond of asserting, in dozens of ways, that various groups of Canadians “deserve” or are “entitled to” a very wide variety of benefits in order to enable them (us) to live lives of dignity. They seem more reluctant, however, to explain what they mean by a “dignified” life, or to offer any way of measuring the effect of the benefits they propose for improving it. Indeed, the only indexes used by most governments to gauge wellness of any kind are gross domestic production levels (GDP) – the aggregate worth of the material objects our society produces. This has caused many observers to remark that Canada and other parts of the world appear to have lost any common conception of the proper meaning of the dignity or purpose of life, replacing that common conception its accompanying sense of community, shared culture, and a sense of the common good with an obsessive consumerism and pursuit of comfort and material wealth. All sense of civil community and our obligation to serve that common good suffers as well. The result has been a postmodern individualism that leaves human beings feeling isolated and on their own.

In his encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis observed that:

*Today, in many countries, hyperbole, extremism and polarization have become political tools. Employing a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless criticism, in a variety of ways one denies the right of others to exist or to have an opinion. Their share of the truth and their values are rejected and, as a result, the life of society is impoverished and subjected to the hubris of the powerful. Political life no longer has to do with healthy debates about long-term plans to improve people’s lives and to advance the common good, but only with slick marketing techniques primarily aimed at discrediting others. In this craven exchange of charges and counter-charges, debate degenerates into a permanent state of disagreement and confrontation.*

Recently some parties have begun to propose various “wellness” indicators as an alternative to reliance on GDP in gauging social wellbeing. Such indicators are based on factors said to represent the health, happiness, and well-being of society and its individual members. And in 2019 the current Canadian Federal government quietly introduced a new “Quality of Life” measure in its instructions to new cabinet ministers, and caused the creation of a “Quality of Life Hub”. The Hub introduces the index, a draft method for measuring it, and solicits public feedback. (See <https://www160.statcan.gc.ca/index-eng.htm>)

- 1) Bearing in mind that it is citizen voters who are ultimately responsible for the behaviour of democratic governments, how should Catholics respond to the government’s call for comment, with properly and prayerfully-formed consciences? Should they involve their provincial and municipal governments in the discussion? If so, how?

How do the following questions, and their answers, factor into the government’s proposed framework? How do they relate to life and politics in the Province of Ontario?

- 2) What limits should be placed on voluntary termination of human life, either prior to birth or at any time before death? What can or should be done at the federal level, and what should be left to the provinces, or to private, religious, or other non-profit organizations?
- 3) What options is our society able to offer to reluctant or unwilling mothers, as alternatives to abortion and to support unwanted children?
- 4) Is it appropriate to allow minors to consider suicide as a health care option without consulting their parents?
- 5) What options can be offered by provincial or federal governments to families of minors who are being encouraged to consider medically-assisted suicide?
- 6) Is it appropriate to require unwilling healthcare personnel to participate in SAD, abortion, or other actions that are contrary to Catholic belief, or to their individual well-formed consciences? Should such persons be legally protected from performing tasks that go against their conscience? If so, how and to what extent?

- 7) To what extent should voluntary, elective services that are morally questionable to large numbers of individuals, such as the voluntary termination of life or the voluntary “modification” of gender, be financed publicly through mandatory taxation? If such services are to be offered, should they be financed by the individuals who elect to access them, or by sympathetic charities, or by dissenting taxpayers?
- 8) All national political parties have called for continued commitment to the fight against the evil of human trafficking. What more, if anything, could be done to fight this evil, at the personal, local, civic, municipal, and provincial levels to protect vulnerable people? Are you able to recognize the signs of trafficking? If activity that you felt included human trafficking came to your attention, what could or should you do about it?
- 9) Are federal restrictions and controls on cloning and the use of human cells, fetuses, and body parts properly crafted? What, if anything, should be done differently? Should there be more discussion of this serious moral issue in our society?



The Government’s index considers 85 key indicators relating to five factors – prosperity, health, society, environment, and good governance, viewed through lenses of fairness and including and sustainability and resilience. How do the proposed factors and lenses relate to the seven themes of social justice, namely:

- Life & Human Dignity
- Stewardship of Creation
- Family, Community & the Common Good
- An Economy for All
- Individual Rights & Responsibilities
- Solidarity
- Good Governance?

# Stewardship of Creation

Climate Change | Species, Diversity & Wildlife | Energy & Resources | Sustainable Development

***Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience. (Pope Francis, Laudato si')***

## Catholic Teaching

God gave humans dominion over the earth, thereby making us stewards of creation as we work with Him in His continuing act of creation.

We must constantly consider how our actions glorify or harm this wonderful gift God has entrusted to us. This is a multi-faceted question, which must not be over-simplified.

With a vocation to glorify all life which includes respect for the inviolability and integrity of life, humans find themselves in the presence of all God's other creatures. We can and are obliged to put them at our own service and to enjoy them, but our dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility. It is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. All of creation has value and is "good" in the sight of God. This is a marvelous challenge to human intellect. – 112, 113, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

***Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue: it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.***

*-23, 217, Laudato Si'*

The Book of Genesis provides us with certain foundations of Christian anthropology, including the meaning of human activity in the world, which is linked to the discovery and respect of the laws of nature that God has inscribed in the created universe, so that humanity may live in it and care for it in accordance with God's will. – 37, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

## Climate Change

There is urgency to this issue. Every Pope since at least Paul VI has written of our need to shift to a more responsible use of the earth and its abundant resources. The Church accepts that that need is now urgent.

"A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system... Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat... at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors, yet a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases



## Climate Change

### ***New climate economy***

The party states that:

- Ontario needs honest, ambitious climate action now, and that the path forward is laid out in its ambitious, honest and achievable climate plan, one that relies on bold action - not half-measures – to get the province to real net-zero emissions by 2045.
- the provincial economy is missing out while the government doubles down on gas plants and urban sprawl, scraps renewable energy contracts, goes to court over carbon pricing, and snubs cash incentives to make EVs affordable for the average person.
- if the province wants to attract jobs and investment in the trillion dollar clean economy, it needs to show that it is a province that takes climate change seriously. It is possible to create hundreds of thousands of jobs retrofitting our buildings, manufacturing EVs, and creating low-carbon products and technologies.
- it is also committed to preserving nature within the province as the province's best defence against climate change and moving to a zero-waste economy.
- the province can also support farmers on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Agriculture must be part of solutions to the climate crisis. It calls for protections and investments to help local food systems thrive.
- Ontario communities and infrastructure were never built to withstand the extreme weather events that are becoming common and more intense with each passing year. It is necessary to support municipalities in adaptation.
- it is also necessary to work with Indigenous communities to protect and restore nature, which will reduce climate pollution and help us adapt to extreme weather events.
- addressing climate pollution is also an opportunity to improve our overall health and well-being. Even meeting the comparatively modest federal climate targets would save about 112,081 lives between 2030 and 2050 due to air quality improvements alone.

The party states that:

- year after year, scientists tell us that we need to urgently phase out fossil fuels. Governments make promises about cutting emissions, and then make policy decisions that do the opposite.
- it advocates ending the oil-based economy and introducing the first Zero Carbon Law that will keep Ontario within its fair share of the world's total remaining carbon budget. It further advocates ending fuel subsidies immediately, and joining other provinces by adopting Zero Emission Vehicle standards and positioning Ontario at the forefront of the EV revolution, from mining to manufacturing.
- incentives for green building retrofits will create good jobs, reduce climate pollution and help people save money by saving energy.

### **The party advocates:**

- **phasing out fossil fuels** by establishing a Fair Share Carbon Budget for Ontario for the rest of this century and incorporating a legal annual reporting requirement on progress and pollution reduction plans; cutting carbon pollution in half by 2030 and hitting real net zero by 2045, taking over administration of the federal carbon fee system and increasing the price by \$25 until it reaches \$300/tonne in 2032. All carbon fee revenues collected from individuals would be returned to individuals as dividends; working with the federal government to establish border carbon adjustments to create a level playing field for Ontario's low-carbon producers; eliminating fossil fuels from electricity generation the fastest way compatible with the province's fair share carbon budget, aiming to phase out fossil gas by 2030; and stopping new gas hookups and new fossil fuel.

- **moving to renewable, clean energy sources**, including doubling Ontario's electricity supply by 2040 and making Ontario's electricity emission-free as quickly as possible in order to electrify transportation and buildings with clean energy; allowing homes and businesses with renewables to earn credits toward energy use for excess energy production; electrifying everything practicable, including buildings, transport and industrial energy; negotiating to buy and/or exchange power



released mainly as a result of human activity. — Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, –23

## Energy & Resources

The good steward neither allows the resources entrusted to him to lie fallow or to fail to produce their proper fruit, nor does he waste or destroy them (*Matthew 25:14-30*). Rather, he uses them responsibly, for the Lord's purposes, to realize their increase so that he may enjoy his livelihood and provide for the good of his family, his descendants, and his neighbors.

Humanity's relationship with creation and the creatures of the earth "requires the exercise of responsibility, it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation." — 115, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

One of the higher priority issues in economics is the utilization of resources, that is, of all those goods and services to which economic subjects — producers and consumers in the private and public spheres — attribute value because of their inherent usefulness in the areas of production and consumption... Resources in nature are quantitatively scarce, which means that each individual economic subject, as well as each individual society, must necessarily come up with a plan for their utilization in the most rational way possible, following the logic dictated by the "principle of economizing." — 346, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Because of the powerful means of transformation offered by technological civilization, it seems that the balance between man and the environment has reached a critical point... A reductionistic conception quickly spread, starting from the presupposition — which was seen to be erroneous — that an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed... — 461, 462, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Conservation & Sustainable Development

Care for the environment represents a challenge for all of humanity. It is a matter of a common and universal duty, that of respecting a common good, destined for all, by preventing anyone from using "with impunity the different categories of beings, whether living or inanimate — animals, plants, the natural elements — simply as one wishes, according to one's own economic needs."

Responsibility for the environment, the common heritage of mankind, extends not only to present needs but also to those of the future... This is a responsibility that present generations have towards those of the future... A correct understanding of the environment... at the same time...must not absolutize nature and place it above the dignity of the human person himself. In this latter case, one can go so far as to divinize nature or the earth, as can readily be seen in certain ecological

with Quebec if both power and transmission are available at a reasonable price; adding least 7500 MW of short- and medium-term storage to help our electrical grid run smoothly; not building new uranium mines or nuclear plants that add to the huge pile of dangerous nuclear waste that has already been in "temporary" storage for 50 years; and shutting down the aged Pickering Nuclear Plant as scheduled or earlier if continued operation is unsafe.

- **increasing access to electric vehicles and charging infrastructure** by increasing demand for new low-emission vehicles with cash incentives up to \$10,000 for buying a fully electric vehicle and \$1,000 for an e-bike or used electric vehicle; phasing out the sale of new gas and diesel passenger vehicles, medium-duty trucks, and buses by 2030; requiring trucks in urban areas to be 50% Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV) by 2030 and 100% ZEV by 2040; making electric charging infrastructure, including increasing the number of fast-charging stations on every 400 series highway rest stop; requiring all new or re-surfaced parking areas (public and private) to install EV charging, providing a tax incentive for businesses to install charging infrastructure; requiring existing parking lots and garages (public or private, above ground or below) to install access to EV charging in 25% of spots by 2024, 50% by 2030, and 75% by 2035; and amending the building code so that new homes are EV charging ready; and creating EV supply chains to grow jobs and businesses in Ontario.

- **making buildings energy efficient** by creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs by retrofitting 40% of existing homes and workplaces to net-zero (conservation plus heat pump and solar, for example) by 2030 and 100% by 2040 to help people save money by saving energy; amending the Building Code, so all new commercial and residential buildings are built with the lowest carbon footprint possible and net zero by 2028; providing net-zero retrofit grants for non-profit housing providers, co-ops and low-income households to lower their energy costs and consumption; releasing the pent-up demand for green retrofits by ensuring owners and tenants have access to low-cost financing and incentives to insulate and electrify their home, both reducing energy bills and protecting Ontarians from international energy price jumps; encouraging the use of sustainable and non-toxic building materials, and removing regulatory obstacles to mass timber construction using FSC-certified wood; making building-level fossil fuel use transparent through labelling and disclosure; and establishing strong, integrated conservation programs for electricity, gas and water, including ensuring that multi-unit buildings improve energy efficiency and install individual meters for every unit.

- **leading by example**, including setting aggressive GHG targets for provincial government operations, and expanding pollution reduction programs to include hospitals, schools, universities, and other public institutions; putting a strong climate lens on all government decisions, including a shadow carbon price on capital investments; eliminating fossil fuel use in new and renovated government buildings by 2025, and in all government buildings by 2030; and requiring all large public and private organizations to disclose and reduce their carbon footprint and climate-related financial risks.

- **supporting municipalities to be climate leaders**, including providing municipalities and practitioners with knowledge, technical expertise, resources, and training via a Green Infrastructure Support Hub; attracting private investment into municipal and commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy programs (PACE, also called Local Improvement Charges) with seed capital and a provincial loan-loss guarantee; allowing municipalities to borrow money to make municipally owned buildings more efficient and pay the loans back out of the savings; requiring all municipalities to adopt plans for reducing corporate and community emissions as far as possible to net-zero by 2045, and giving them the authority and tools to implement them, including long-term, predictable funding; and restoring the 50% provincial cost-share for transit operations and supporting electrification plans for all municipal transit systems.

## Species, Diversity & Wildlife

### The party advocates:

- **protecting biodiversity** by restoring the original Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a science-based system for determining species status, recovery, and habitat protection while eliminating exemptions for industry; properly funding and supporting endangered species recovery efforts and habitat stewardship programs; cancelling the Species at Risk Conservation Fund (aka "Pay to Slay") that allows businesses to simply offset their harm to biodiversity by paying into the fund; protecting pollinators by ending the outdoor use of neonicotinoid pesticides; and restoring the pesticide advisory committee; and regulating new outdoor lighting to include dark sky protection.

- **strengthening animal welfare rules**, including banning the breeding, possession, use, and sale of wild exotic animals as pets and implementing a more comprehensive licensing system for zoo facilities housing exotic wild animals; banning road-side zoos and prohibiting inhumane and unsafe animal-visitor interactions as per the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums guidelines; enhancing animal welfare standards for animal agriculture; implementing more robust regulations and inspections of the housing, sale, and transport of agricultural animals and ensure enforcement; opposing the use of furs on ornamental, except by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit persons, and where such use is protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and repealing all provincial breed-specific legislation.

movements that seek to gain an internationally guaranteed institutional status for their beliefs. – 346, 461-463, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### Species Diversity & Wildlife

Man and woman find themselves also in the presence of all the other creatures. They can and are obliged to put them at their own service and to enjoy them, but their dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility, it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. All of creation has value and is “good” in the sight of God, who is its author. Man must discover and respect its value. This is a marvellous challenge to his intellect, which should lift him up as on wings towards the contemplation of the truth of all God’s creatures, that is, the contemplation of what God sees as good in them. Man must recognize all of God’s creatures for what they are and establish with each of them a relationship of responsibility. – 113, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

“Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God’s infinite wisdom and goodness. Man must respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things which would be in contempt of the Creator and would bring disastrous consequences for human beings and their environment.” – 339, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

It is a responsibility that must mature on the basis of the global dimension of the present ecological crisis... This perspective takes on a particular importance when one considers, in the context of the close relationships that bind the various parts of the ecosystem, the environmental value of biodiversity, which must be handled with a sense of responsibility and adequately protected... -466, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### Conservation & Sustainable Development

As priorities within its platform, the party advocates:

- permanently protecting prime farmland, wetlands and conserve 30% of nature by 2030.
- providing \$1B in funding for Indigenous climate leadership including Indigenous protected and conserved areas.
- making infrastructure climate ready with a \$2B adaptation fund for municipalities.
- establishing a transparent annual carbon budget to reach net zero by 2045.
- electrifying transportation, buildings and industry to crush pollution and lower energy costs.
- providing up to \$15,000 in incentives for homeowners for energy retrofits to help people save money by saving energy.

### Urban Sprawl

The party states that:

- urban sprawl - paving over nature - costs more than other options because it increases flooding and takes necessary investments to replace what nature does for

free. It also eats up farmland, which is disappearing at an alarming rate.

- sprawl also costs more in taxes, adds to traffic congestion and increases air pollution and other types of environmental damage.
- expert data suggests that sprawl is unnecessary, that there is no need to expand beyond our current growth boundaries right now because we already have enough land set aside for development. What is needed instead is smart development that encourages the use of land wisely in order to build vibrant neighbourhoods with a mix of housing types – such as laneway houses, single family homes, triplexes, quadruplexes, walk-ups, condos, and co-ops.
- an essential part of any community is small business. It wants to make it easier for small businesses to succeed. For those who live in urban cities, rural hamlets or somewhere in between, communities can have local shops, services and parks that are close by and easy to get to.

The party advocates:

- **promoting smart growth** by freezing urban boundaries; developing a “15-minute” neighbourhood framework that suits a variety of towns and cities across the province by working with municipalities on rezoning; reversing the current government’s changes to the Growth Plan that encourage sprawl and revise the Growth Plan to promote healthy density; and requiring that intensification targets are met with distributed density throughout urbanised areas.

- **building infill housing near transit**, including 1.5M homes in a variety of innovative forms within urban boundaries over the next 10 years; updating the Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement and other applicable laws and regulations to expand zoning permissions to allow for triplexes and fourplexes as-of-right within existing urban boundaries; updating planning laws to prezone for missing middle and mid-rise housing on transit corridors and main streets; requiring minimum housing densities at transit stations and along transit corridors as part of the Growth Plan and transit funding agreements between the province and municipalities; working with all levels of government to transform appropriate publicly owned land for affordable housing, such as above transit facilities and in transit station surface parking lots; reinstating the provincial brownfield remediation fund to support municipalities to safely build affordable housing on previously industrial sites; developing a framework that encourages the construction of housing on commercial properties, such as abandoned plazas and warehouses, where safe and appropriate; and ending mandatory minimum parking requirements for all new developments when they are constructed.

- **ensuring inclusive community consultation**, by working collaboratively with municipalities on a province-wide “Yes, in My Backyard” initiative to raise awareness of the benefits of infill housing within existing neighbourhoods; encouraging municipalities to meaningfully engage with prospective residents, not only current residents, when consulting on zoning changes and new developments to ensure all voices are heard during the planning process; and exploring innovative approaches to planning consultation that ensure processes are genuinely inclusive and meaningfully engage all citizens. For example, engaging people in community locations that they frequent such as coffee shops or transit stops, or providing childcare to ensure broader community participation.

- **strengthening community hubs** by increased funding for local libraries and ramping up publicity around the important community programming that they offer; increasing support for community centres and neighbourhood coalitions, which play an important role in encouraging community connections and reducing isolation for elders; restoring improving communication and outreach, and providing reduced fees for the community use of schools to ensure their availability as important hubs in our communities; providing free and low-cost community programming in high-needs neighbourhoods, including but not limited to covering costs for free evening, weekend, March break, and summer permits; and investing in more Youth Wellness Hubs and community centres that offer access to local mental health services, spaces for social interaction, and supports for families

- **creating vibrant neighbourhoods** by supporting municipalities to create infill greenspaces so that there is one within a 10 minute walk of all homes by 2030; amending zoning rules to allow for small businesses such as corner stores to open within residential neighbourhoods; providing start-up funding for

community-owned healthy food markets and increasing support for community gardens through land gifts and organisational support to eliminate urban food deserts; improving the community benefits system for major infrastructure projects to increase the social and economic benefit received by the local community.

- **helping small neighbourhood businesses recover and thrive** by expanding the Digital Main Street program to include nonprofit organisations and provide fulfilment platforms that better enable small, local businesses to compete with large online companies; developing a small business grant program for Black-owned businesses; supporting the increased staycation tax credit and ensuring it includes dining at restaurants; working with insurance providers to develop an affordable commercial insurance program for small businesses; developing a program to help COVID-affected small businesses file for bankruptcy in a fair and non-punitive way; improving opportunities for small local businesses and nonprofits to win public contracts through targets and by decreasing current financial and informational barriers; allowing Ontario's craft spirits, brewers, and wine producers to open independent, off-site stores; and allowing boutique wine, craft beer and artisan spirit retail outlets; improving the distribution network to work for small businesses; and allowing access for hospitality to purchase from these suppliers at a wholesale price of up to 20%.

- **creating a new regulatory framework for small business**, by undertaking a review of regulations in order to weed out red tape and costs that disproportionately affect small businesses; creating standardised leases to ensure fairness and transparency and ensure that priority is given to existing tenants when leases are up for renewal; creating rent control guidelines for year-over-year increases that apply to all commercial tenants, including new tenants; and implementing a mechanism to enforce rules and resolve disputes.

- **supporting local arts and social enterprises**, by decreasing land taxes payable for buildings in which below market rent opportunities are available to creative and social enterprises; developing a made-in-Ontario social enterprise strategy with the nonprofit and cooperative sectors to drive local job creation and support rural, remote, and urban self-reliance; creating a stabilisation fund for the non-profit sector to ensure that nonprofits and charities can help rebuild the economy and communities; affirming the arms-length operations of, and increase investment in, the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Trillium Foundation; and reinstating support for the Indigenous Culture Fund.

### **Conservation**

The party states that:

- Ontario's wetlands, forests and watersheds help make it special, and are key in keeping the province's air and water clean and protecting the good soil needed for provincial growth.
- protecting the provinces natural heritage helps preserve biodiversity and directly affects some of Ontario's most important economic sectors: tourism, forestry, food, and farming.
- to combat climate change, the province's natural ecosystems provide its best low cost solutions to maintaining a clean water supply and providing flood protection.
- it advocates expanding the Greenbelt by adding a new Bluebelt that protects our supply of clean water.

### **In particular, the party advocates:**

- **protecting at least 30% of provincial lands and water by 2030**, by working with Indigenous communities to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through their laws, governance and knowledge systems; permanently protecting protect Provincially Significant Wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and Provincial Wildlife Areas on Crown land; protecting and restoring natural areas that sequester carbon and protect biodiversity, including grasslands and peatlands, old growth forests, and ecological corridors between protected areas; strengthening and funding the ecological integrity role of Ontario's public parks system and creating five new provincial parks; strengthening the Greenbelt Act and making new highways through the Greenbelt illegal; rewarding sustainable forestry and land management practices that protect the Boreal forest; and enhancing urban tree canopy targets and improving legal protection for urban trees, including dedicating 15% of the existing infrastructure funding for green infrastructure, including urban forests.

- **protecting provincial source water** by doubling the size of the Greenbelt to include a Bluebelt of protected moraines, river systems, and watersheds that includes the Paris Galt Moraine, Carruthers Creek, Grand River Watershed, and many other critical bodies of water; working with Indigenous Peoples and the federal government to establish National Marine Conservation Areas in Hudson and James Bay, and in the Great Lakes; implementing a plan for cutting phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe to 44 tonnes and supporting the creation of a phosphorus recycling facility; restoring provincial funding for source water protection under the Clean Water Act and expanding drinking water source protection to northern, remote and Indigenous communities; and bringing back oversight and public consultation to reduce flooding and protect people and the places we love, including mandating vegetated setbacks along lakes, rivers, flood plains and drains.



- **promoting sustainable water use**, including fixing the Permit to Take Water process to stop industrial water extraction and ban bulk removal of water from a watershed, and restoring municipal regulation of aggregate extraction below the water table; adding water usage to reporting obligations for large buildings and the public sector; incentivizing water conservation and reuse, such as greywater systems in households; and requiring multi-unit residential and commercial buildings to install water metres.

- **reducing waste** by setting high recycling and management standards for printed paper and packaging (Blue Box) materials, and a minimum standard of 85% for plastic packaging by 2030; adopting clear, stringent, and enforceable extended producer responsibility standards for waste and packaging generated at workplaces, schools, and in public places - the sectors responsible for the majority of Ontario's waste; expanding the federal government's list of banned single-use plastics to include water bottles, coffee cups and other unnecessary packaging; ensuring a broad range of right to repair legislation to extend the life of goods and protect purchasers; banning food waste from landfills or incinerators and expanding food waste collection to all municipalities across the province; setting targets to significantly reduce provincial material and consumption footprints; and track and report on progress; and setting required minimum use of recycled aggregates in infrastructure projects as well as providing research and education; funding to ensure that all reclaimed concrete material can be re-engineered and re-used as effectively as possible.



#### Stewardship of Creation

To build needed infrastructure while protecting the environment, the party advocates:

- investing in municipal and regional road repair and maintenance, widening provincial highways in congested areas, upgrading winter maintenance of key provincial highways, fixing and repairing bridges and add turning lanes where needed.
- reducing gridlock and investing in much-needed provincial projects, such as uploading and expanding the Ottawa LRT, electrifying and increasing GO service throughout the GTA and southwestern Ontario, and expediting the delivery of planned transit projects in Kitchener-Waterloo, Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton.
- axing the current government's carbon tax and developing a Made in Ontario environmental action plan in conjunction with the federal government and other provinces that protects Ontario's land, water, air, biodiversity and communities.
- protecting prime farmland, including the Greenbelt and championing a sustainable agri-food sector to support farmers and rural communities.
- leveraging the Better Communities Fund to keep municipalities whole and keep property taxes low.



#### Climate Change

The party has published no current official statement regarding its policies concerning climate change.

Prior to the last election, the party stated that:

- Ontarians are proud of their natural heritage, and know that their well-being relies on the health of the environment, and that it believes that the transition to a green, low-carbon economy must be fair, and not leave communities behind.
- Ontario and Canada face a climate crisis. Scientists are clear that global temperature increases must be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid catastrophic consequences linked to climate change. To do its part, Ontario must dramatically reduce GHG emissions.
- it will not be persuaded that resolving the climate crisis is impossible, or unaffordable.
- future generations are depending on us to plan ahead.
- its Green New Democratic Deal is a bold and practical plan to address the urgency of the climate crisis while at the same time revitalizing the provincial economy, protecting workers, and creating millions of good, well-paying jobs.

#### Energy & Resources

To fight rising costs, the party advocates:

- ensuring an abundant supply of reliable and affordable energy, towards a legislated target of achieving a net-zero economy no later than 2050, including making evidence-based and cost-effective investments in clean energy and efficiency from a mix of non-emitting sources, storage and conservation.

- completing long-planned priority transmission investments to deliver abundant clean energy to expanding industries, such as auto manufacturers and greenhouse growers.
- providing 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.
- enhancing 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.
- helping 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.
- exempting Electric Vehicles produced overseas from incentives where corporate leadership are hell-bent on destroying the Canadian economy.
- reducing energy costs for struggling households, especially those in rural and Northern Ontario, with on-bill rate relief for lower-income households that heat with gas, oil or other fuels — to bridge them to conversion to more affordable electric heating, similar to the existing Ontario Electricity Support Program; and providing monthly financial support to help cover heating costs as well as access to emergency financial assistance for those at risk of being cut off by their fuel distributors.

### ***Mining***

To protect Ontario jobs, the party advocates:

- supporting a strong Ontario mining sector, and the tens of thousands of good jobs it provides. In place of the piecemeal and bulldozer-first approach of prior governments, which has failed to develop the Ring of Fire, it proposes beginning a formal consultation process with the Matawa Tribal Council First Nations members, and other impacted First Nations on decisions related to the Ring of Fire to create generational infrastructure, jobs, and revenue sharing opportunities in the North, and help get critical minerals to power Ontario's future.

### **Conservation & Sustainable Development**

As a part of its program for building new affordable homes available, the party advocates:

- updating 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.
- protecting Greenbelt, and Ontario's prime farmland, by focusing growth sustainably and cost-effectively within the pre-2022 urban boundaries, keeping infrastructure costs down in the process.

To protect Ontario jobs, the party advocates:

- establishing 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.



**As of 23 February 2025, four days prior to the election it called, the party has published no comprehensive updated statement of its proposed policies.**

### **Climate Change**

The party's constitution states that as a matter of principle it believes in and accepts its responsibilities for the preservation of Ontario's heritage and cultural diversity and the conservation and renewal of the environment for present and future generations.

Prior to its current term in office, the party advocated:

- in order to put more money in taxpayers' pockets, scrapping the carbon tax and the Green Energy Act, and reducing gas prices by 10 cents per litre
- challenging any attempt by the federal government to impose a carbon tax on Ontario families in the Supreme Court of Canada

### **Carbon taxes**

As a part of a program to make life more affordable for Ontarians, the party's 2024 budget states that:

- it is committed to protecting people and businesses from the high costs of a new and unexpected provincial carbon pricing program, by introducing legislation that would require the provincial government to first ask the people of Ontario, via a referendum, before implementing a new provincial carbon pricing program.

- it also continues to call on the federal government to eliminate the federal carbon tax, which has increased inflation and made life less affordable for Ontarians.

### **Energy & Resources**

On February 10, 2025, the party published an online statement that it would protect Ontario's energy grid by banning China from energy procurements, by:

- banning any Chinese state-owned enterprise from buying or taking equity in any Ontario government funded energy, critical mineral or major infrastructure asset.
- investing in clean nuclear energy to fuel economic growth while reducing emissions, including:
  - Developing Ontario's first integrated energy plan, including all energy resources such as hydroelectricity, natural gas and other fuels.
  - Refurbishing existing nuclear energy generation at the Pickering and Darlington generating stations, expanding nuclear energy generation at Bruce Power, exploring new nuclear energy generation in Port Hope, and building Canada's first small modular reactors at Darlington Nuclear Generating Station.
  - Refurbishing and expanding hydroelectricity generation, including supporting Ontario Power Generation's \$4 billion investments in hydroelectricity generation in Niagara and in Northern and Eastern Ontario.
  - Securing the largest battery energy storage procurement in Canadian history, with enough storage to power three million homes.
  - Building new energy transmission infrastructure across Ontario.

### **Conservation, Sustainable Development, Species, Diversity & Wildlife**

Prior to its current term in office, the party advocated:

- hiring more conservation officers and increasing policing of major polluters.
- ending bureaucratic review of the Ring of Fire project, to allow it to proceed.
- to stimulate growth in the North moving forward with revenue sharing from mining, forestry, and aggregates.
- ensure that hunting and fishing revenues go toward their stated purpose of conservation.
- setting up an emissions-reduction fund to invest in new technologies within the province.
- committing resources to reduce garbage in neighborhoods and parks.

### **Provincial Parks**

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:

- it is actively taking steps to open the first new, all-season, operating provincial park in 40 years. The Bigwind Lake Provincial Park, located near the Town of Bracebridge, will offer facilities and recreational activities including swimming, hiking, cross-country skiing, and add around 250 new campsites to the Ontario Parks system.
- it is also creating the province's first urban provincial park in the Township of Uxbridge, which will serve as a year-round day-use provincial park and support Ontario's progress on its commitment to provide families with more outdoor recreational opportunities while conserving and protecting areas of natural and scientific interest. A survey was conducted in summer 2023 to seek public input on the programming and activities that could be enjoyed in the proposed park, and will explore further opportunities for partnerships for additional urban parks for the people of Ontario.
- it is enhancing recreational opportunities by also implementing a number of other initiatives, including bringing electrical services to over 800 campsites and creating approximately 300 new campsites across several provincial parks.

### **Conservation Partnerships**

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:

- spending time in nature and green spaces has a positive impact on a person's health and well-being.
- it is committed to continuing to work with partners and conservation leaders to preserve more areas of significant ecological importance, protect natural areas and promote the importance of healthy, natural spaces.
- it is continuing the Greenlands Conservation Partnership program by investing an additional \$20 million over four year, to allow conservation partners to raise matching private-sector contributions to secure new, privately owned natural areas, such as wetlands, grasslands and forests, as well as ensure they are protected and managed for the future.
- protecting provincial lakes is a key commitment in the government's plan to help ensure a safe, healthy and clean environment now and for future generations.

- the Holland Marsh area produces more carrots, celery, onions, lettuce and greens than any other single region across Canada.
- it is supporting farmers to implement technologies and food washing processes that reduce the amount of phosphorus in the water that flows into Lake Simcoe.
- it is continuing to protect and restore the Great Lakes through annual investments of \$6.4 million to support innovative projects. These projects are led by community-based organizations, small businesses, municipalities, conservation authorities and Indigenous communities, which focus on protecting and restoring coastal, shoreline and nearshore areas of the Great Lakes and connecting rivers and **streams**.
- it is also allocating over \$24 million towards the innovative Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy for a new phosphorus recycling project to help reduce phosphorus discharges from the Holland River into Lake Simcoe.

## Points to Ponder: Stewardship of Creation

Many voices, including scientists, the Vatican, and the United Nations, agree that in order to avoid catastrophic global heating, with resulting unpredictable increases in the number and severity of extreme weather events, loss of agricultural land, particularly in the poorest countries, and collapse of ecosystems, the global average temperature increase must be limited to 1.5 degrees Centigrade; and that to achieve such a limit, emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide (collectively, “greenhouse gasses”, or GHG) must be cut in half by 2030 and brought to zero net increase by 2050. Canada is currently committed to a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, but according to the Auditor General may not meet that goal. And others wonder whether Canada’s commitment is big enough to be fair to other countries.

The charts below show different aspects of GHG emissions in Canada, using the most recent data available. They provide rich ground for reflection on the application of Catholic Social Teaching. The first chart, labeled “Figure 9”, shows emissions per person in each province, by province, according to the most recent data. The second, labeled “Table 2”, shows the levels of emissions for various industries as of 2005 (the “benchmark” year by which most international GHG comparisons are measured), 2019, and 2022. The third, “Chart 20”, shows the federal government’s understanding of past emissions levels, and predictions for getting to its agreed level by 2030.

- **Emissions in Ontario:** Figure 9, the per-capita provincial comparisons, suggests that on a per-person basis the province of Ontario belongs to a lower group of emitters (along with Quebec and Prince Edward Island) whose emissions are well below the current Canadian national average of 18.2 tonnes per person. It would appear, however, that work remains to be done if Ontario wishes to catch up with the current global average of 5.9 tonnes per person per year (the gold line in Figure 9), and even more if it wishes to reach the global target for 2030, of 2.1 tones per person per year (the green line).
  - What, if anything, can or should fairly be done by the people of Ontario to join a global drive to reduce emissions levels?
  - What, if anything, can or should fairly be done by the other provinces, and/or the federal government? Can or should Ontario do anything to help other provinces, including for example Alberta and Saskatchewan, whose higher levels of emissions are largely driven by processes that result in products that are shipped to other provinces?
- **Industrial Emissions:** Table 2 suggests both encouraging and disappointing trends in various industries. For example, it suggests that Canada-wide emissions caused by the generation of electricity have been reduced by more than half, while significant progress has been made in other heavy industries. On the other hand, emissions in the oil and gas, agricultural, and buildings sectors have continued to rise. What can or should be done about that by individuals and the provinces they live in, bearing the principles of subsidiarity, solidarity, the common good, and the sanctity of life in mind?
- **Canada’s Fair Share:** Chart 20 seems to present a challenge for all Canadians, wherever we live.
  - For example, it is disappointing to see that emissions levels for the first 20 years shown in the chart have remained relatively constant, with the bulk of the reductions being predicted for the last 10 years. It seems disappointingly common for curves on social phenomena to show the bulk of the progress in the future, while little improvement has been made in the years since commitments were made or is predicted for the nearer future. Must that always be so? Assuming that it is true in this case, can or should we do better?
  - The chart also seems to suggest that even if we meet Canada’s 2030 goal as a nation, we all have much work to do beyond that: our nation has committed only to reduce emissions to a point at which we are producing about six times as many emissions as the rest of the world. Assuming that is true, can or should we do better?
- **Fewer parties are committing in platform statements** to holistic approaches to preservation of the environment, opting instead to indirectly promise improvement on emissions, clean water, and conservation, as parts of efforts to improve the economy. Is that prudent? Is it fair to those who depend on the environment for food, or for breathing? Is it fair to future generations?

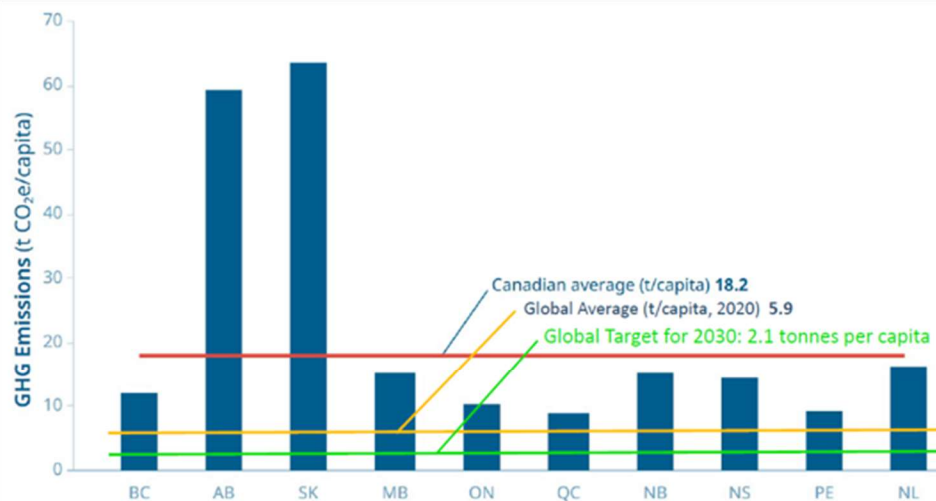


Figure 9. GHG emissions per capita by province in 2022

Data sources: 2024 National Inventory Report, Statistics Canada<sup>22</sup>  
 - Global Average: Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Environment & Climate Change Canada, 2023  
 - Global Target for 2030: Towards Climate Neutrality by 2025, OECD iLibrary  
 Chart Source: Pembina Institute, All Together Now (July 2024) - <https://www.pembina.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/All%20Together%20Now.pdf>  
 Annotated to include Global Average and Global Target by Catholic Conscience using above sources

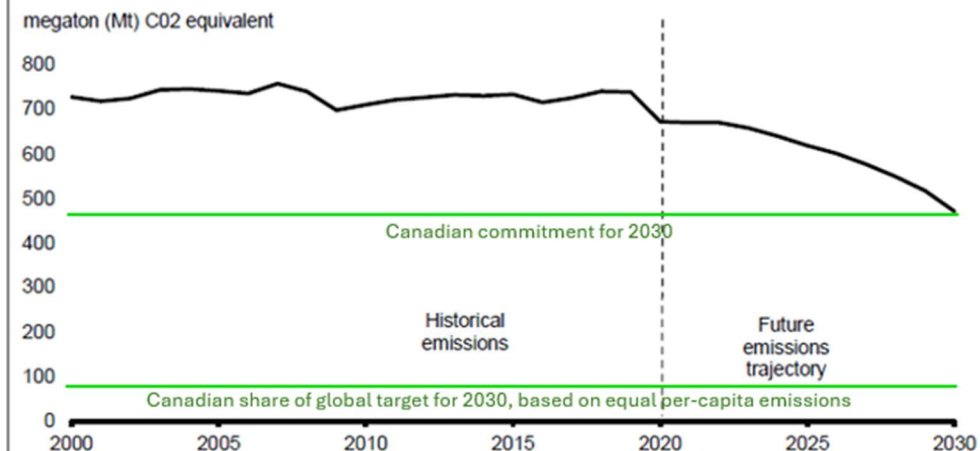
Table 2. Canada's emissions by economic sector in key years

Economic sector	Emissions (Mt CO <sub>2</sub> e)			% Change 2005–2022
	2005 Canada's baseline year	2019 pre-pandemic	2022 post-pandemic	
Canada total	761	752	708	-7.1%
Oil and Gas	195	226	217	11.0%
Electricity	117	61	47	-59.4%
Transport	156	170	156	0.1%
Heavy Industry	88	79	78	-11.5%
Buildings	85	94	89	4.5%
Agriculture	66	69	70	7.0%
Waste and Others	55	52	51	-7.8%

Note: Waste and Others includes Coal Production, and Light Manufacturing, Construction and Forest Resources

Chart 20

## Aggregate Historical and Future Trajectory of GHG Emissions, 2000-2030



Note: Historical data excludes effects from land use, land use change and forestry sector (LULUCF) while future emissions include these effects.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2022), National Inventory Report 1990-2020 and 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan.

## Sources:

- Left, top & bottom: Pembina Institute, *All Together Now* (2024) accessed at: <https://www.pembina.org/pub/all-together-now>
- Above: Canadian Federal Budget 2023, pg 16
- Annotated by Catholic Conscience, using references cited

## Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in Canada



# Family, Community & the Common Good

Role of the Family | Health Care & Elder Care | Education & Young Workers | Culture, Arts & Tourism

***The priority of the family over society and the State must be affirmed. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)***

## Catholic Teaching

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. These demands concern above all the commitment to peace, the organization of the State's powers, a sound juridical system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation... -166, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### The Role & Development of the Family

***"Honour your father and mother."***  
– the 4th Commandment

The family is the primary unit in society. It is where education begins and the Word of God is first nurtured. The priority of the family over society and the State must be affirmed. – 209-214, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Church teaches that the proper role of government and other human institutions is to foster human life and dignity by maintaining social conditions that enable and encourage us to serve God in one another, and thereby to promote that which is truly in the common interest. This begins with nurturing and enabling families, as well as supporting the elderly and other marginalized members of society.

### Health Care

Among the causes that greatly contribute to underdevelopment and poverty, mention must be made of illiteracy, lack of food security, the absence of structures and services, inadequate measures for guaranteeing basic healthcare, and the lack of safe drinking water and sanitation. -166, 447 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### Support for the Elderly

If the elderly are in situations where they experience suffering and dependence, not only do they need health care services and appropriate assistance, but and above all they need to be treated with love. - 222 *Compendium of the Social*



### Role of the Family

The party has published no official statement concerning its policies on the role or importance of the family.

To support children with disabilities, the party advocates:

- addressing the growing waitlist for Ontario Autism Program (OAP) core services by building the capacity of autism providers, funding the OAP to bring families into the program as rapidly as possible, and increasing funding every year as inflation and the number of children registered in the program increases.
- establishing an ultimate wait time benchmark for diagnosis and access to core services once registered in the program.
- working with the federal Government and other provinces in the development of a National Autism Strategy to develop standards and a funding model to provide supports and services for autistic people of all ages, and providing educators with multi-discipline training to help them address student sensory and behavioural issues and adopt teaching strategies that support students with a wide spectrum of accommodation needs.
- building on the work done with the OAP toward a new Ontario Disability Support Program that would provide funding for therapeutic and respite services and supports for people with all disabilities, beginning with children and youth.

### Health Care

As matters of priority within its platform, the party advocates:

- repeal of Bill 124, paying PSWs, nurses and ECEs a fair wage and hiring 33,000 nurses.
- doubling the rates for Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).
- helping people age in place with a \$1.6B investment in home care.
- support in-person learning and opposing any move toward mandatory e-learning or hybrid learning models.
- enhancing affordability and access to post-secondary by converting loans to grants for low and middle income post-secondary students.

### Mental Health

The party states that:

- mental health is health.
- almost half of Ontarians reported that their mental health worsened during the pandemic; and one in four Ontarians has recently sought help.
- the greatest barriers people face in receiving treatment are access and affordability. But mental health is not a "nice to have," it is a "need to have."
- it introduced a comprehensive mental health plan, "Building a More Caring Ontario," that lays out a strategy to make mental health care more affordable, accessible and comprehensive, so that anyone in the province can get the care they need when they need it. It intends to expand OHIP to include regulated mental health care providers who are presently out of reach for so many Ontarians.

To increase access to publicly funded mental health care, the party advocates:

- applying 10% of Ontario's healthcare budget to mental health.
- including mental health and addiction care under OHIP by offering services provided by psychotherapists, psychologists, social workers, and other regulated professionals.
- providing an immediate base budget increase of 8% to the community mental health sector to increase access to publicly funded care.
- expanding access to publicly funded mental health and addiction treatment beds to reduce or eliminate the need for expensive private care.
- full integration of mental health and addictions services into expanded Family Health Teams and walk-in clinics to improve early intervention, and including mental health and substance use as part of regular check-ups.
- ensuring that care is available everywhere in Ontario, around the clock, including (i) investing to ensure that core mental health and addiction services are available in all regions of Ontario; (ii) establishing clear pathways to navigate the mental health care system, and trained staff to help connect people to appropriate treatment and services; (iii) implementing a wait time reduction strategy for mental health services, and making targets available to the public; (iv) a 3 digit, 24/7 province-wide mental health crisis response line so callers can be diverted from 911 and connected to a more appropriate service; creation and expansion of 24/7 mental health focused mobile crisis response teams, crisis centres, rapid access addiction medicine clinics, and short-term residential beds across the province.

## Education

“May Nazareth remind us what the family is, what the communion of love is, its stark and simple beauty, its sacred and inviolable character; may it help us to see how sweet and irreplaceable education in the family is; may it teach us its natural function in the social order. May we finally learn the lesson of work.” – 210 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, citing St Paul VI, *Address at Nazareth* (5 January 1964)

Maintaining employment depends more and more on one’s professional capabilities. Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one’s responsibilities.

Young people should be taught to act upon their own initiative, to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves. – 289, 290 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Culture, Arts & Tourism

Faced with rapid technological and economic progress, and with the equally rapid transformation of the processes of production and consumption, a great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 376, 401

Certain economically prosperous countries tend to be proposed as cultural models for less developed countries; instead, each of those countries should be helped to grow in its own distinct way and to develop its capacity for innovation while respecting the values of its proper culture. A shallow and pathetic desire to imitate others leads to copying and consuming in place of creating, and fosters low national self-esteem.

We forget that “there is no worse form of alienation than to feel uprooted, belonging to no one. A land will be fruitful, and its people bear fruit and give birth to the future, only to the extent that it can foster a sense of belonging among its members, create bonds of integration between generations and different communities, and avoid all that makes us insensitive to others and leads to further alienation.” – *Fratelli tutti*, –51-53

To improve access to mental health care for children, youth and students, the party advocates:

- reducing wait times to 30 days or less by investing in front-line mental health care workers.
- investing in expanded services for youth as they age out of the youth system of care.
- ensuring that students can easily connect to community mental health professionals at or near primary and secondary schools.
- ensuring that mental health, wellness and resiliency training are included across the entire education system, including implementing a comprehensive curriculum that covers issues such as mental wellness, coping skills, and stress management.
- investing in Youth Wellness Hubs province-wide as a one-stop shop for employment, health, education, recreation and housing support, with a goal of having at least one in each community across Ontario.
- expanded funding for the Centre for Innovation in Campus Mental Health, including peer-to-peer programming, frontline counselling, harm reduction tools, and training to support well-being and resilience.
- treating mental health and addiction as a public health issue, including working with the federal government to fast-track the decriminalisation of drugs and reallocate funding from the justice system to mental health care services and improving data sharing on the overdose epidemic, including detailed data on non-fatal and fatal drug poisonings.

### **Preventative health care**

To prioritize preventative health care within the healthcare system, the party advocates:

- working with the federal government to implement universal dental and pharma- care programs.
- increased investment in understanding social determinants of health, such as social isolation, housing insecurity, and poverty to prevent substantial, long-term health-care costs and severe disease.
- support and promoting healthy behaviours to prevent disease and reduce risk factors such as poor nutrition and smoking.
- improving environmental determinants of health by prioritising clean air, clean water, and access to healthy local food in all communities.

### **Primary Care & Hospitals**

To improve primary care, the party advocates:

- support for a publicly funded, publicly delivered healthcare system and opposing further privatisation of care.
- expanded access to family health teams in communities across the province and increased opportunities for physicians to join team-based models of care; including promoting a diverse array of healthcare providers in the teams to ensure a holistic, connected, comprehensive approach to health.
- increased options for primary care, such as community health centres and nurse-practitioner-led clinics, to ensure access to non-urgent 24/7 care, as well as mid-wives and other community perinatal care services across Ontario.
- improved diagnosis and OHIP-covered care for rare diseases, including but not limited to Lyme disease, long-COVID, and chronic pain disorders.
- increasing year-over-year hospital base operating funding to a minimum of 5%; working with the federal government to provide surge funding to reduce the backlog in surgeries, imaging, and other services; expanding building of new hospitals to meet demand in high-growth areas, and finding additional hospice residences and fund all critical costs related to palliative care, including support for grief and bereavement services.
- increased annual in-home palliative care funding.
- rebalancing the healthcare funding formula to ensure better access in rural and remote areas, investment to increase the number of Indigenous-led health clinics.
- expanding the roles and scope of nurse practitioners as primary health care providers, especially in areas that lack primary care options, using incentives to bring physicians and allied health professionals to Northern and rural communities, and creating opportunities for specialist and subspecialist trainees to undertake electives and core rotations in the North.

### **Accountability in Health Care**

To protect the integrity of the public health system, the party advocates:

- designating the Chief Medical Officer of Health as an independent officer of the legislature in a watchdog role comparable to that of provincial auditors, with annual publicly available reporting.

### **Elder Care**

The party states that:

- the recent census showed that, in the next few years, one in five people in Canada will be over the age of sixty-five, and that many of them will live into their eighties.
- it is necessary to bring support and care into communities where the majority of people prefer to age in place – enjoying daily life within their homes.
- in order to give those who built Ontario a deserved chance to age with dignity, the profit motive should be replaced with a real commitment to give each resident the care they need.

### **Long-Term Care**

The party advocates:

- creating an accountable non-profit long term care system, including building more non-profit long-term care beds, including 55,000 long-term care beds by 2033 and at least 96,000 by 2041 to meet growing demand, including allocation of beds for Indigenous-led long-term care homes.
- increasing base funding for long-term care by 10% and phasing out for-profit long-term care, including stopping licensing new for-profit homes.
- repealing Bill 218, which shields long-term care owners and operators from liability for negligence, and reinstating annual comprehensive inspections of long-term care homes without advance notice, and ensuring homes with infractions face the legislated consequences.
- transferring regulatory oversight of retirement homes to the Ministry of Long-Term Care, and creating a system of formal oversight through the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Ontario Medical Association.
- to legislating staffing in long-term care facilities to include a minimum of one nurse practitioner for every 120 residents and a staff composition that includes 20% registered nurses, 25% registered practical nurses, and 55% personal support workers, and mandating a minimum of four hours of nursing and personal care per resident per day, including a minimum of 48 minutes of care provided by a registered nurse and 60 minutes provided by a registered practical nurse.
- increasing long-term care resident access to allied health professionals, such as dietitians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and social workers, to a minimum of one hour per day.
- mandating continued professional development for staff on geriatric care, practices for caring for residents with dementia, and palliative and end-of-life care.
- to prepare for future infectious disease outbreaks, prioritizing licence proposals for small, community-based long-term care homes, updating design standards to improve outbreak management of infectious diseases, ending contracting out food, housekeeping and laundry services.
- expansion of options for holistic care.
- strengthening obligations for long-term care licensees to respect and recognise residents' gender identity, as well as their social, cultural, spiritual, and language care needs.
- amending the Residents' Bill of Rights to better align with the prohibited grounds for discrimination in the Ontario Human Rights Code, and to add the right of residents to have accommodations made for themselves and their spouse or life partner so they can continue to live together in long-term care.
- prioritizing healthy, quality local food as an important component of resident wellbeing.

### **Home Care**

To improve home care, the party advocates:

- increasing funding to home care services by 20% so that people can safely stay in their homes longer.
- creating a standard basket of core homecare services that providers must make consistently available across the province.
- shifting to entirely nonprofit homecare providers within the public system.
- providing team coordinators as a single access point within family health teams to ensure care is consistent with patient needs.
- mandating that personal support workers are paid a minimum of \$25 an hour and for their travel time between visits.
- increasing high-quality homecare options for those experiencing frailty, dementia, and disability.
- collecting meaningful quality indicators to hold homecare organisations accountable and to promote quality improvements.
- piloting a support program as part of a basic income phase-in for those doing unpaid caregiving in families and communities.
- streamlining and simplifying the approvals process for cohousing and co-living developments, and repeal laws that would prohibit or create barriers to co-housing and co-living.
- increasing support for community centres and neighbourhood coalitions, which play an important role in encouraging community connections and reducing isolation for elders.
- creating incentives for retrofitting homes to make them safer and easier to age in place.

### **Education & Support for Young Workers**

As a matter of priority within its platform, the party advocates:

- supporting in-person learning and opposing any move toward mandatory e-learning or hybrid learning models.
- enhancing affordability and access to post-secondary by converting loans to grants for low and middle income post-secondary students.

To build a modern, more equitable education system, the party advocates:

- establishing an independent review of Ontario's education funding formula so it adequately reflects student needs, and reviewing the formula every five years to ensure adequate funding for ESL grants, special education assistants, counsellors, and other specific supports to provide equitable access to learning and school activities for all students, as well as unique needs of remote and rural schools.
- addressing the repair backlog for Ontario public schools and ensuring schools are able to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), including provide funding for schools to make energy efficiency and ventilation improvements.
- buying zero emission electric school buses to replace retired diesel buses.

### **Primary and Secondary Education**

To strengthen in-school learning, the party advocates:

- opposing any move toward mandatory e-learning or hybrid learning models.
- capping grades 4 to 8 class sizes at 24 students at most and kindergarten at 26 students at most.
- eliminating the EQAO standardised testing and updating the elementary curriculum to reduce prescribed student outcomes.
- increased funding for enhanced outdoor education, greenspace in school yards, and enhanced curriculum content on critical environmental topics such as food literacy and climate change.
- implement a province-wide nutritious school lunch program.
- making equity a pillar of public education, including by addressing racism in schools with mandatory collection and reporting of race-based data for student, teacher and staff populations, as well as implementing standard procedures around the reporting of incidents of racism.
- working with school boards to ensure recruitment and retention practices for staff are transparent and reflect the diversity of Ontario's population and ensure culturally relevant and responsive programming is included in mandatory staff training, and ending streaming to ensure equity for all students.
- immediately removing all Resource Officers from Ontario schools.
- establishing clearly visible all-gender washrooms and updating school communications to become more gender inclusive, recognising that gender exists on a spectrum.
- updating the curriculum to include informed discussions of anti-Black racism, 2SLGBTQIA+ prejudice, and all forms of discrimination across subject areas.
- restoration of funding for the Indigenous curriculum program and working with Indigenous educators and community leaders to develop a mandatory curriculum on colonialism and residential schools, treaties, and Indigenous histories and experiences.

### **Post-Secondary Education**

To improve access to and equity in post-secondary education, the party advocates:

- immediately reversing the current government's cuts to OSAP by converting loans to grants for low and middle income students and eliminating interest charges on student debt.
- indexing the base operating grant for Ontario's post-secondary institutions to the weighted national average, followed by inflationary increases year to year.
- replacing the faulty performance-based university funding model and restoring the more stable and equitable enrolment-based funding model.
- ensuring consistent and fair labour standards and working conditions for all faculty, including contract faculty, removing wage constraints, and paying equal wages for equal work.
- developing province-wide, culturally relevant, trauma-informed and survivor-centric standards for sexual and gender-based violence on post-secondary campuses in consultation with experts, frontline workers, students and survivors.

### **Culture, Arts & Tourism**

The party states that:

- communities providing access to essential shops and services within a 10 or 15 minute walk, with protected bicycle access, are good for both people and the environment.
- communities should be built with everyone in mind, not just the able-bodied. As communities are modernized, streets, homes, and buildings should be made accessible to people with mobility issues so they are no longer cut off from their communities.

To build vibrant communities, the party advocates:

- **strengthening community hubs** by increased funding for local libraries and ramping up publicity around the important community programming that they offer; increasing support for community centres and neighbourhood coalitions, which play an important role in encouraging community connections and reducing isolation for elders; restoring improving communication and outreach, and providing reduced fees for the community use of schools to ensure their availability as important hubs in our communities; providing free and low-cost community programming in high-needs neighbourhoods, including but not limited to covering costs for free evening, weekend, March break, and summer permits; and investing in more Youth Wellness Hubs and community centres that offer access to local mental health services, spaces for social interaction, and supports for families
- **creating vibrant neighbourhoods** by supporting municipalities to create infill greenspaces so that there is one within a 10 minute walk of all homes by 2030; amending zoning rules to allow for small businesses such as corner stores to open within residential neighbourhoods; providing start-up funding for community-owned healthy food markets and increasing support for community gardens through land gifts and organisational support to eliminate urban food deserts; improving the community benefits system for major infrastructure projects to increase the social and economic benefit received by the local community.

- **helping small neighbourhood businesses recover and thrive** by expanding the Digital Main Street program to include nonprofit organisations and provide fulfilment platforms that better enable small, local businesses to compete with large online companies; developing a small business grant program for Black-owned businesses; supporting the increased staycation tax credit and ensuring it includes dining at restaurants; working with insurance providers to develop an affordable commercial insurance program for small businesses; developing a program to help COVID-affected small businesses file for bankruptcy in a fair and non-punitive way; improving opportunities for small local businesses and nonprofits to win public contracts through targets and by decreasing current financial and informational barriers; allowing Ontario's craft spirits, brewers, and wine producers to open independent, off-site stores; and allowing boutique wine, craft beer and artisan spirit retail outlets; improving the distribution network to work for small businesses; and allowing access for hospitality to purchase from these suppliers at a wholesale price of up to 20%.

- **creating a new regulatory framework for small business**, by undertaking a review of regulations in order to weed out red tape and costs that disproportionately affect small businesses; creating standardised leases to ensure fairness and transparency and ensure that priority is given to existing tenants when leases are up for renewal; creating rent control guidelines for year-over-year increases that apply to all commercial tenants, including new tenants; and implementing a mechanism to enforce rules and resolve disputes.

- **supporting local arts and social enterprises**, by decreasing land taxes payable for buildings in which below market rent opportunities are available to creative and social enterprises; developing a made-in-Ontario social enterprise strategy with the nonprofit and cooperative sectors to drive local job creation and support rural, remote, and urban self-reliance; creating a stabilisation fund for the non-profit sector to ensure that nonprofits and charities can help rebuild the economy and communities; affirming the arms-length operations of, and increase investment in, the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Trillium Foundation; and reinstating support for the Indigenous Culture Fund.



#### **Family, Community & the Common Good**

The preface of the party's 2025 platform states that:

- growing the provincial economy starts with investing in workers, communities and healthcare, not just the rich.
- it proposes investment in needed roads, hospitals and schools, reducing gridlock, and supporting economic growth and diversification.

Specifically, the party advocates:

- guaranteeing everyone a family doctor in four years, ensuring that mental healthcare is covered under OHIP, and supporting seniors to age with dignity.
- slashing taxes, saving taxpayers thousands annually by permanently cutting income tax for workers and eliminating sales tax (HST) on home heating and hydro bills.
- building more affordable homes by eliminating development charges, restoring the dream of homeownership, and bringing fairness back to the rental market.
- permanently doubling ODSP so Ontario's most vulnerable are not left behind.
- clearing the school repair backlog, improving safety at school, and providing education that prepares Ontario for the future.

#### **Role of the Family**

The party has published no official statement concerning its policies on the role or importance of the family.

#### **Health Care & Elder Care**

The party proposes:

##### **Guaranteeing everyone a family doctor within four years by:**

- attracting, recruiting, retaining and integrating 3,100 family doctors by 2029.
- creating two new medical schools and expanding capacity in existing medical schools, doubling the number of medical school spots and residency positions.
- promoting team-based care with evening and weekend appointments, integrated home care for seniors, and accessible mental health services for children, youth and teenagers.
- accelerating the process to integrate at least 1,200 qualified and experienced internationally trained doctors over the next four years through Practice Ready Ontario.
- eliminating fax machines, enhancing virtual care, introducing centralized referral systems with patient portals and implementing interoperable electronic medical records to let doctors and other healthcare professionals focus on patients instead of paperwork.
- incentivizing family doctors to serve in rural and northern communities and mentor the next generation to prevent future shortages.



**Ending hallway health care by:**

- helping hospitals hire and retain the staff they need by paying nurses, PSWs and other supportive healthcare workers a living wage and providing them with additional training and professional development opportunities to stay in the public system.
- eliminating wage discrepancy across the system, regardless of whether an individual is employed by a hospital, in-home care or in long-term care.
- investing in needed infrastructure including expediting hospital repairs and expansions.

**Protecting the public healthcare system from privatization by:**

- cracking down on for-profit healthcare promoted by the current government by regulating temporary nursing agencies.
- bringing nurse practitioners (NPs) into the public system and banning private-pay NP clinics.
- reviewing the current government's privatization plans, including a full review of Health Minister Sylvia Jones' mandate letters and auditing how Ontario is using the more than \$20 billion in federal health transfers it receives every year.
- developing a Francophone Healthcare Strategy to ensure Franco-Ontarians are able to access care in their first language.

**Expanding Mental Health and Addiction Services by:**

- introducing universal mental healthcare under OHIP by expanding the Ontario Structured Psychotherapy Program, covering conditions like anxiety, depression, and eating disorders, hiring more social workers, and defining standards and coverage so that all people in Ontario have a basic form of coverage
- providing wraparound support to help people recover from addictions, including rapidly building supportive housing units.
- acting decisively and collaboratively with those on the frontline to bring deaths caused by opioid use down to zero in four years through expanded treatment, recovery and rehabilitation.

**Supporting Seniors To Be Independent and Restoring Confidence In Long-Term Care, by:**

- guaranteeing needs-based home care through Family Health Teams, boosting annual home care funding by 25%.
- helping seniors age at home gracefully by creating a Seniors' Home Care Tax Credit, saving up to 25% of up to \$10,000 in medical expenses a year.
- repealing the coercive Bill 7 and ensuring that LTCs are held accountable for mismanagement, non-compliance, and neglect of direct care under a four-hour minimum standard per resident, per day.

**Permanently doubling the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits and indexing it to inflation so that Ontario's most vulnerable are not left behind.****Education & Support for Young Workers**

To restore education to the centre of its economic plan for Ontario and ensure a good start for children in world-class schools, the party advocates:

*Clearing a \$21.78-billion school repair backlog, and*

- installing heating, air conditioning and air filtration systems in every classroom by doubling annual capital funding for schools.
- building 90 new schools over four years and ensuring that no school needs to use portables.
- allowing schools to address their unique staffing and infrastructure needs by expanding funding, eligibility and flexibility for the Safe Schools Grant program.

*Keeping children and educators safe at school by:*

- allowing every elementary, middle or high school student to have support and supervision in the classroom by establishing a lower student-to-teacher and education-worker ratio.
- hiring more mental health professionals, educational assistants, Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), social workers, child and youth workers and other staff, lowering the ratio of students to education workers in the Core Education Funding.
- closing the funding gap of \$1,500 per student in the K-12 sector and ensuring future commitments are tied to inflation.
- clearing special education-related waitlists and assessment backlogs so students have access to appropriate resources and support.
- committing to mutual respect and collaboration between the Ministry of Education, students, parents, teachers, unions and administrators starting with a commitment to not blindsides educators with Friday afternoon announcements.
- feeding every elementary and secondary school pupil a free and healthy lunch every school day by quadrupling funding for school food programs.

*Providing education that prepares Ontario for the future by:*

- reintroducing a one-year teaching degree to expeditiously address the teacher shortage.
- holding school boards accountable for spending new and existing funding on priority outcomes such as helping students develop skills for the future, advancing student success and making schools safe.

- strengthening French education across Ontario by supporting community and cultural partnerships, training, inter-board cooperation, and hiring additional French educators.
- expanding access to STEM, robotics, coding, skilled trades, entrepreneurship, economics, financial literacy and civics courses.
- providing opportunities for skilled trades and health care workers through union-led training programs.

*Fixing post-secondary schools, by:*

- eliminating interest on OSAP loans and raising the income threshold for repayment to \$50,000.
- capping international student enrollment at 10% for each Ontario college and university, and expanding campus resources and affordable student residence options.
- funding colleges and universities fairly to help them avoid being heavily dependent on international student enrollment.
- establishing a province-wide policy mandating post-secondary institutions to increase their focus on IP generation and commercialization, and business adoption of skills, technologies, and ideas.

**Culture, Arts & Tourism, Official Languages**

The party advocates:

- developing a Francophone Healthcare Strategy to ensure Franco-Ontarians are able to access care in their first language.



**Role & Development of the Family**

To fight rising costs, the party advocates:

- controlling grocery prices, by: (1) providing a Monthly Grocery Rebate based on how much the cost of essential groceries like milk, bread and vegetables have increased under the current government, tied to income and numbers of people in households and (2) bringing transparency to grocery prices by forcing big retailers to 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 cracking down on price fixing and other unfair practices by establishing a new consumer watchdog to keep food prices fair.

**Child Care**

To fight rising costs, the party advocates:

- implementing \$10/day child care after years of delays by the current government, creating 53,000 new, public or not-for-profit affordable childcare spaces by working with providers and service managers, and by removing the rules that limit municipalities in creating their own child care spaces.

**Health Care**

The party states that:

- Ontario's public health care system has been broken by consecutive prior 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 in Ontario it intends to strengthen and protect it.

To promote public health care, the party advocates:

- as part of its Family Health Guarantee, ensuring that every Ontarian has a family doctor by adding 3500 more doctors to the primary care system, hiring more nurse practitioners, health care workers and support staff, and investing in publicly funded, publicly delivered health care.
- investing \$4.1 billion over four years to connect people to team-based primary care, close to home.
- addressing the Northern health crisis by establishing a Northern Command Centre to hire 350 doctors, including 200 family doctors in Northern Ontario, and doubling residency positions at NOSM University.
- training and hiring 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.
- ensuring that 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.
- resuming expansion of Ontario's public hospital network and stopping the privatization of health care services, including prioritizing projects at Windsor-Essex Regional Hospital; new hospitals for Durham Region, Brantford, and Brampton; restoring 24/7 emergency services to Welland Hospital, delivering a new hospital for

Brantford; restoring service to Fort Erie and Port Colborne Urgent Care; responsibly planning a new Regional Hospital in Kitchener-Waterloo; re-opening Minden Hospital; and preserve; and preserving Rural Emergency Departments.

- reducing wait times for patients and improving access to care by establishing a centralized and standardized referral system to streamline the process of referring patients to specialists and reducing the administrative burden on doctors and their staff.
- working with experts, health care providers, patients and communities to ensure access to gender affirming care and breaking down barriers to accessing health care for all 2SLGBTQ+ Ontarians.
- expanding OHIP to include coverage for prescription contraception, the HPV vaccine at any age when recommended by a doctor, PrEP and PEP, and take-home cervical cancer test kits.
- stopping privatization of home care and long-term care. For-profit care providers compromise quality and reliability of care.
- ensuring that people can live at home longer as they age, with reliable and expanded services to support their need, including attracting and matching match long-term care and home care workers to communities where they have shared culture and language skills.
- reversing the unconstitutional Bill 7 that allows hospitals to discharge patients into long-term care homes without their consent, fixing Ontario Health at Home after its disastrous roll out, so no one is left waiting without urgent homecare supplies.
- taking immediate action to clean up the mercury in the English-Wabigoon River system, remediating the mercury buried upstream from Grassy Narrows, and connecting people who are impacted by mercury poisoning with the care they need.

#### ***Mental Health Care***

- establishing universal basic mental health care and increasing funding to community mental health service providers, like CMHA and AMHO, to provide crucial services to help people with addictions.
- following the advice of experts and using evidence-based strategies to address the opioid epidemic, including funding the addition of detox and residential treatment beds, and establishing wage parity for health care workers in community settings so they can also offer mental health support.
- clearing the waitlist of 28,000 children and youth waiting for mental health care, including ensure children and families have access to Autism services, particularly in Northern and Rural communities where services are even scarcer.

#### ***Health Care Workers***

To fight against rising costs, the party advocates:

- eliminating 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 they are a patient, a loved one, a front-line worker or a doctor.

#### ***Education & Support for Young Workers***

The party states that although schools are at the heart of Ontario's communities, decades of cuts and freezes have left them schools overcrowded, understaffed, and crumbling. Every child, regardless of income status, deserves a high-quality public education in safe schools that support their needs.

The party advocates:

- investing Ontario's next generation with a new, needs-based funding formula. In consultation with schoolboards and education workers, it will review and fix school funding, which has been reduced \$1,500 per student since 2018, leaving schools with fewer teachers and larger class sizes.
- fixing schools with an additional \$830 million per year to clear the repair backlog within 10 years while keeping up with school maintenance needs and giving students a high quality, nurturing learning environment.
- hiring more staff in schools, supporting 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, including consultations on the restoration of one year teacher's college programs to help get more qualified teachers in the system, faster.
- creating a universal School Food Program so that every child in Ontario is set up to succeed, using fresh food prepared and grown in Ontario and increasing funding to the First Nations school food program.
- increasing student transportation funding, to address days missed by changes to school bus service eligibility requirements, including fixing the student transportation funding formula.
- protecting the right to Francophone education, as well as Francophone rights to access to government services, health care, retirement living, and kindergarten-to-post-secondary education in French, in French-language institutions and including investment in Francophone education in French school boards and French immersion programs in the English system while redoubling efforts to ensure there are enough Francophone teachers in the system.
- reducing fees for before and after school child care, and negotiating with the federal government to expand \$10-a-day to school age children.
- supporting every learner, by ensuring that the public education system gives students with disabilities the support they deserve and working with educators and school boards to continue destreaming with adequate funding and support, and ensure that the data is available to support more equitable schools.

### **Post-secondary Education**

The party advocates:

- investing in public post-secondary education, increasing per student funding by 20% and tying future increases to inflation. Universities and colleges are at a breaking point, many posting deficits and cutting programming. Decades of prior government have left Ontario with the lowest per-student funding in Canada for post-secondary education.
- reversing the current government's cuts to OSAP and converting all OSAP loans to grants so that all students graduate debt-free, and canceling outstanding student loan interest owed.
- establishing a standalone Francophone institution at Sudbury University, and returning the midwifery program to Sudbury University and increase enrollment in the nursing program to increase access to labour and delivery services while growing the francophone health care workforce.

### **Young Workers**

To protect Ontario jobs, the party advocates:

- doubling Ontario's Career Ready Program so Ontario colleges and universities can create additional work-integrated learning opportunities, creating thousands of new, paid co-op and internship opportunities for young people.
- supporting pathways into the skilled trades, from shop classes to those seeking a career change later in life, with continued investment in the Skills Development Fund and workers' training centres across the province.
- establishing 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.

### **Culture, Arts & Tourism**

The party advocates:

- to fight the rising cost of living, repairing, revitalizing, and reopening the Ontario Science Centre, and canceling the current government's deal to hand over Ontario Place to a luxury spa company, saving the equivalent of \$400 a household.

To protect Ontario jobs, the party advocates:

- working with artists and creators to promote and market Ontario's book publishing, film and television, live performance, digital and arts industries; ensuring both the stability and competitiveness of Ontario's film, television and digital tax credits; and strongly supporting Ontario Creates and Ontario Arts Council programs to ensure people throughout the arts and culture sector have the support and respect they need.
- partnering 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.

### **Francophone community**

The party advocates:

- protecting the right to Francophone education, as well as Francophone rights to access to government services, health care, retirement living, and kindergarten-to-post-secondary education in French, in French-language institutions and including investment in Francophone education in French school boards and French immersion programs in the English system while redoubling efforts to ensure there are enough Francophone teachers in the system.
- establishing a standalone Francophone institution at Sudbury University, and returning the midwifery program to Sudbury University and increase enrollment in the nursing program to increase access to labour and delivery services while growing the francophone health care workforce.

To protect Ontario jobs, the party advocates:

- partnering 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.



**As of 23 February 2025, four days prior to the election it called, the party has published no comprehensive updated statement of its proposed policies.**

### **The Role & Development of the Family**

The party states that it believes, as a matter of principle, in the values of the family which encourage tolerance and mutual support.

### **Health Care**

Prior to its current term in office, the party stated that:

- front-line medical professionals should be consulted regarding the best use of health care funds.
- to address the need for more health care services, it was investing to support historic hospital expansion and construction projects, including a new inpatient wing at William Osler Health System's Peel Memorial and ongoing planning of a new regional hospital in Windsor-Essex.
- it was investing in the creation of new children's treatment centres in Ottawa and Chatham-Kent to increase access to critical programs and services.
- it further advocated: in order to reduce hospital wait times, creating 15,000 new long-term care beds over 5 years, and adding \$3.8 billion in new support for mental health, addictions, and housing; introducing free dental care for low-income seniors; and providing an additional \$38 million to support children with autism.

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:

- in February 2023 it a plan for connected and convenient health care built on three pillars: The Right Care in the Right Place, Faster Access to Care, and Hiring More Health Care Workers.
- it also continues to invest in improved access to digital services, including enhancement of Health811 services to enable increased access to virtual care, online appointment booking, and integration with Ontario Health Teams, and continuing to invest in remote care management, which is integral to supporting patients in the comfort of their homes rather than in hospital for a wide range of conditions, including post-surgical discharge and chronic disease management.
- to support home and community care, in 2023 it accelerated commitment of \$1 billion over three years to stabilize the home and community care workforce and to support the expansion of home care services, and further proposes to invest an additional \$2 billion over three years to boost that's acceleration, support earlier investments to increase compensation for personal support workers, nurses and other frontline care providers, and to stabilize expanded services.
- it continues to invest in transforming the home care system, including new models of care and modernizing the Client Health and Related Information System (CHRIS), the digital infrastructure system supporting home care.

### **Hospitals**

The party's 2024 budget states that:

- in recognition of the indispensable role hospitals play in delivering critical health services, it proposes investing an additional \$965 million, including a four per cent increase in total base hospital funding for an unprecedented second year in a row, to ensure public hospitals are able to meet patients' needs and to increase access to high-quality care. The investment also includes funding for stabilization and management of the surgical system, with a focus on maximizing capacity to increase the number of surgeries performed, to promote shorter wait times, and funding to ease pressures faced by small and Northern hospitals.
- it proposes to expand palliative care services in local communities by adding up to 84 new adult beds and 12 pediatric beds, bringing the total to over 750, in order to provide people with comfort and dignity closer to their communities and loved ones when they are nearing the end of life.
- to continue building a convenient and connected health care system, it plans additional investments of nearly \$50 billion over the next 10 years in health infrastructure, including close to \$36 billion in capital grants. This includes supporting more than 50 hospital projects that would add approximately 3,000 new beds over 10 years to improve access to reliable quality care. Recent milestones include: projects at Grand River Hospital, Health Access Thorncliffe Park, Queensway Carleton Hospital; Quinte Health; Sault Area Hospital; Ottawa Hospital; University Health Network – Toronto Western; West Park Healthcare; Waypoint Centre; Windsor-Essex Regional Hospital.
- the budget also proposes commitment of an additional \$620 million over 10 years for the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund and the Community Infrastructure Renewal Fund, to address urgent infrastructure renewal such as upgrades or replacements of roofs, windows, security systems, fire alarms and back-up generators.
- it proposes allocating an additional \$500 million over 10 years for small hospital projects and community health programs. These smaller hospital and community projects can create much needed capacity in the short term and help to prevent hospital visits that put pressure on emergency departments and hospital admissions.

### **Primary Care:**

The party's 2024 budget states that:

- it proposes historic investments to enhance access to primary care with a goal that everyone who wants to have a primary care provider can connect to one. On February 1, 2024, it announced an investment of \$110 million in 2024–25. Building on this, it proposes a total investment of \$546 million over three years, bringing the total investment to \$606 million since 2023–24.
- to address the need for family physicians and improving the province's primary care capacity, it is working with York University in establishing a new medical school in Vaughan. This would be the first medical school in Canada primarily focused on training family doctors.
- to address immediate health care staffing needs, it is investing \$743 million over three years. Initiatives include: making the extern program permanent, offering up to 5,590 health care students training opportunities to work in hospitals and gain practical experience as they continue their education; making the supervised practice experience partnership program permanent, to support up to 1,500 internationally educated nurses annually to become accredited nurses in Ontario; and increasing nursing enrolment in colleges and universities, including \$128 million over three years to support sustained enrolment increases of nursing spaces at publicly assisted colleges and universities.



- it continues to invest in expanded access to allied health care providers across the province, including by adding an additional 700 education seats for medical radiation and imaging technologists, medical laboratory technologists, medical lab technicians and medical radiation extenders, and working with colleges to explore and pilot compressed programs for pharmacy technicians and medical radiation technologists so more qualified professionals can enter the workforce sooner.

#### ***Women's and Children's Health***

The party's 2024 budget states that to ensure women and children better access to culturally responsive and safe care to strengthen the health of their families, it proposes investment of \$50 million over three years, including:

- \$24 million over three years to enhance access to the Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program across 160 Indigenous delivery sites.
- \$15 million over three years for Mobile Maternal Care, to offer a range of services, from prenatal to postnatal care, improving accessibility of maternal and newborn health care in remote communities.
- \$11 million over three years to support safer births in Northern Ontario by providing mothers in Northern Indigenous communities with vital birthing supports, including more doulas, second attendants or birth helpers.

#### ***Mental Health Care***

The party's 2024 Budget states that:

- during its prior time in office it made historic investments of \$3.8 billion over 10 years for mental health and addictions services, and now proposes to invest an additional \$396 million over three years to support the stabilization, improved access and expansion of existing mental health and addictions services and programs.
- as part of this investment, it proposes allocating \$124 million over three years to support the continuation of the Addictions Recovery Fund to ensure the people of Ontario continue to have access to enhanced specialized services for mental health and addictions treatment, including: (i) maintaining 383 addictions treatment beds for adults who need intensive supports, helping to stabilize and provide care for approximately 7,000 clients each year; (ii) three mobile mental health clinics to provide a suite of mental health and addictions services to individuals living in remote, rural and underserved communities; and (iii) three police-partnered Mobile Crisis Response Teams to support individuals in a mental health or addictions crisis.
- it further proposes to support the Ontario Structured Psychotherapy Program for those with anxiety and depression through cognitive behavioural therapy.
- since 2020, Ontario has established 22 Youth Wellness Hubs, helping connect over 43,000 youth and their families to mental health and wellness services and accounting for over 168,000 visits. To build on the success of these hubs, it plans to expand the network by adding five more hubs in Port Hope, Thunder Bay, Oxford County, Vaughan and Brampton, bringing the total number to 27. In addition, it proposes to invest \$8.3 million over three years to add another five hubs, bringing the total number of hubs to 32.

#### ***Long-Term Care***

The party's 2024 Budget states that through planned investments totalling a historic \$6.4 billion since 2019, it is making progress to build 58,000 new and upgraded beds across the province by 2028.

#### ***Construction Funding Subsidies***

The party's 2024 budget states that:

- its commitments to long-term care include \$155 million to increase the construction funding subsidy to support the cost of developing or redeveloping a long-term care home, in order to fast-track construction for the next tranche of beds. Eligible projects will receive an additional construction funding subsidy of up to \$35 per bed, per day, for 25 years. In addition, eligible not-for-profit applicants will be able to convert up to \$15 per bed, per day, of the supplemental funding into a construction grant payable at the start of construction, to increase projects' upfront equity and enable applicants to secure financing.
- it first provided supplemental increases for construction funding subsidies in November 2022, and since then has advanced construction for over 60 long-term care homes and over 10,000 beds.
- through an accelerated build pilot program, four new long-term care homes have been built on hospital-owned lands, adding 1,272 new long-term care beds in Mississauga, Ajax and Toronto.
- towards its commitment of building 58,000 new and upgraded beds to modern design standards across the province by 2028, it has 18,000 beds that are either open, under construction, or have approval to start construction. In response to higher costs in the sector, the government is increasing operating funding to help support the financial stability of new and existing long-term care homes. Since 2023, long-term care homes have been completed and opened to new residents at: Wellbrook East and Wellbrook West in Mississauga; and Woodland Villa in Long Sault.
- it proposes to invest an additional \$46 million over three years to support the continued operation of 59 Behavioural Specialized Unit (BSU) beds, and to add more than 200 net new BSU beds to expand care for individuals with complex needs.

#### ***Education & Support for Young Workers***

Prior to its current term in office, the party stated that it stresses teaching basics such as reading, writing and math, rather than using schools as social laboratories, and advocated:

- creating a 75% refundable tax credit for child care costs for children aged 0-15
- ensuring that parents are allowed to choose the type of child care that is best for their children
- returning to educational basics by scrapping discovery math and inquiry-based learning
- banning cell phones in all primary and secondary classrooms, in order to maximize learning time
- making mathematics a mandatory study in teachers' college programs
- fixing standardized testing programs
- restoring prior sex-ed curricula until a new age-appropriate curriculum can be developed, based on consultation with parents
- banning school closures pending a review of the closure process
- mandating respect for free speech on university campuses and in class rooms

### ***K-12 Basics***

The party's 2024 Budget states that:

- it is supporting a back to basics learning strategy by building foundational skills in reading, writing and math. Students have benefited from a new math curriculum focused on financial literacy and coding, as well as the overhauled language curriculum that brings back phonics and cursive writing.
- recent Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment results show encouraging progress, which demonstrates the importance of students learning in the classroom without disruption and with targeted supports focused on literacy and math.
- it proposes to continue existing supports through the back to basics learning strategy, including: (i) \$15 million for digital math tools to provide anytime access to learning opportunities at home and in the classroom, as part of total funding of about \$72 million in math supports, including one-on-one French-language online tutoring through Eureka!; (ii) \$65 million for dedicated educators working in small groups or individually with students in kindergarten to Grade 3; and (iii) an updated kindergarten curriculum, starting in September 2025, which will introduce learning through clear and direct instruction in reading, writing and math for kindergarten students.

### ***School Safety***

The party's 2024 Budget states that:

- it proposes allocation of \$30 million over three years to help equip schools with security cameras, lighting and other security upgrades, including vape detectors, as well as learning on privacy and online safety in elementary and secondary curriculum.

### ***Special Education***

The party's 2024 Budget states that:

- it is committed to providing all students with the opportunity to succeed in school and life, including students with disabilities and special education needs.
- to that end it proposes allocation of \$18 million in the 2024–25 school year to help the most vulnerable students, including \$8 million to introduce dedicated resources to help students with special education needs navigate the school system and beyond, as well as \$10 million for increased in-class supports for students with the highest level of need.
- it proposes increasing allocations for the Ontario Autism Program to \$120 million, which is double the increase provided previously, to support enrollment of 20,000 children and youth in core clinical services.

### ***Building Schools and Child Care Spaces***

The party's 2024 budget states that:

- it proposes allocation of \$23 billion, including approximately \$16 billion in capital grants over 10 years, to build, expand and renew schools and child care spaces across Ontario.
- since 2018, it has supported nearly 300 school or child care-related projects, of which more than 100 are actively under construction.

### ***Postsecondary Education***

#### ***Tuition***

As a part of its effort to keep life affordable for Ontarians, the party's 2024 Budget states that:

- it is extending a tuition fee freeze for Ontario students in publicly assisted colleges and universities for at least three more years, including offering institutions the flexibility to increase tuition by up to five per cent for out-of-province domestic students.
- since the freeze was first introduced after a 10 per cent reduction in tuition fees, students and parents have saved an estimated \$1,600 per year, on average, to attend university and an estimated \$350 per year, on average, to attend a public college, compared to what they would otherwise have paid.

#### ***Accountability and Student Support in Postsecondary Education***

The party's 2024 budget states that:

- to increase transparency on ancillary fees and other student costs, while also supporting student mental health and keeping campuses safe and inclusive, it introduced the Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act, which would authorize the Minister of Colleges and Universities to issue directives requiring colleges and universities to provide information about ancillary fees and other student costs, including for textbooks. This would help students and their families understand the full cost of the courses they are selecting.
- the act would also require colleges and universities to have mental health policies in place that should include clear and transparent information about programs and supports available to students, along with policies to address racism and hate, including but not limited to antisemitism and Islamophobia.

### ***Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics***

The party's 2024 budget states that:

- in response to increasing labour market demands for workers in sectors related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), it has allocated one-time funding of \$100 million to support STEM program costs at publicly assisted colleges and universities with enrolments above their funded levels.
- to ensure that small, Northern and rural colleges and Northern universities can provide students with competitive choices for local postsecondary education, the government is providing an additional \$10 million in funding through the Small, Northern and Rural Grant for colleges and the Northern Ontario Grant. The funding is intended to provide targeted support to eligible institutions that are financially vulnerable, while the government works with them on efficiency initiatives.

### **Culture, Arts & Tourism**

#### ***Film & Television***

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:

- Ontario's vibrant and growing film and television industry continues to create high-value jobs and attract investment across the province. Productions that received support from provincial programs spent approximately \$3.2 billion in Ontario in 2022, contributing to over 45,000 full-time direct and spinoff jobs.
- as first announced in 2022 Budget, it advocates modernizing Ontario's film and television tax credits to reflect the latest industry practices, and has expanded tax credit eligibility to productions made available exclusively online, introduced a screen credit requirement, and expanded eligible expenditures for the Ontario Production Services Tax Credit to include location fees and measures to simplify eligibility and help companies get their tax credits faster, while also ensuring support remains targeted to professional productions.

#### ***Community Development***

In its 2024 Budget, the party:

- proposes allocation of \$200 million over five years in a new application-based local community sport and recreation infrastructure fund, demonstrating its commitment to provide children, families, and seniors across Ontario with new and improved opportunities to participate in sport and recreational activities by investing in new and revitalized community and recreation infrastructure.
- proposes plans to build vibrant, complete, mixed-use communities at or around transit stations, and to provide new voluntary funding tools for municipalities to apply toward the design and construction of new GO Transit stations and mixed-use communities.

#### ***Toronto Waterfront***

In its 2024 Budget the party states that:

- to date it has contributed \$400 million to the Villiers Island / Ookwemin Minising project in the Toronto portlands, including funding for bridges and other infrastructure to provide cycling, walking, and driving while advancing the Port Lands Flood Protection Project.

#### ***Official Languages***

Prior to its current term in office, the party stated that:

- it believes in and accepts, as a matter of principle, its responsibilities for the preservation of Ontario's heritage and cultural diversity and the conservation and renewal of our environment for present and future generations.
- to support Ontario's Francophone communities through COVID-19, it was building on its initial investment of \$2 million in the COVID-19 Relief Fund for Francophone Non-Profit Organizations by providing an additional \$1 million to support hard hit Francophone non-profit organizations.
- as part of its commitment to the long-term economic recovery and development of Francophone communities across Ontario, it was investing \$3 million over three years to better meet the increased need and demand for support from community organizations, including social enterprise and small businesses, serving Ontario's Francophone community across all regions of the province.

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:

- it remains committed to improving access to services in French across Ontario and enhancing the vitality of Franco-Ontarian communities.

- to that end it is working with the federal government to renew the Canada–Ontario Agreement on Minority-Language Services and would further invest close to \$10 million over three years to expand the delivery of quality French-language services, to support the development of bilingual training programs, improve the economic opportunity of Francophone businesses and enhance French-language supports in communities across Ontario.

## Points to Ponder: Family, Community & the Common Good

A conscience well formed by the social teachings of the Church will seriously consider the following questions:

### Families & Child Well-Being

- 1) In what circumstances, if any, is it appropriate for governments to place limits on the right of parents to make decisions pertaining to the care or education of their children?
- 2) To what extent is child poverty a problem in Canada? To the extent that it is a problem, what should be done about it, and by whom?
- 3) Some political parties have suggested that in order to maximize return from national and/or provincial economies, full participation by all eligible workforce members, including all parents – whether members of single- or two-parent families – is critical, so that economic well-being can be optimized. Moreover, they say, to achieve full economic participation it is critical to ensure that affordable child care is accessible by all families. Let us consider the following question: Which is more important for children: a stable and dignified home with loving parents, one of whom might be available to stay home part or full time, or maximized economic returns? To the extent that being home with a parent is best for a child, how can that be encouraged by society? Is it possible, for example, to ‘level the housing playing field’ for families having single parent providers?

### Health Care

Given that the Church speaks of a right to adequate health care, consider the following questions that any informed Catholic should ponder before voting for a particular political party:

- 1) What should be done to ensure that adequate levels of quality health care are available to all who need it, without undue delays or waiting times?
- 2) While birth control and abortion pills are covered by provincial health care and at least one party has proposed coverage (including travel, if needed) for in-vitro fertilization, the costs of counseling for natural methods of family planning are not. Is it reasonable to provide drugs and expensive, invasive procedures to young couples free of charge while requiring those who seek natural, non-chemical methods, to pay? Or, should the federal and/or provincial governments consider providing coverage for and promoting proven natural family planning methods?
- 3) In a publicly-funded healthcare system, does there exist any obligation for an individual to take reasonable measures to avoid health issues (e.g., wearing a mask during a pandemic, or a helmet while riding a bicycle), so as to avoid becoming a publicly-funded health care burden when preventable illness or injury occurs? If so, what can or should be done to identify such measures, and encourage individuals to adopt them?
- 4) Is it wise for a country to ensure that it is self-dependent for important health care products, such as vaccines against serious illnesses? If so, what can or should the federal and provincial governments do to encourage and support such self-dependence?

### Care for the Elderly

1. Some parties are calling for increased space in publicly-funded facilities for the elderly and long-term care patients. Should any other solutions, such as nurturing a culture of life-long intergenerational family cohesiveness and support, including home caregivers, be considered also, in addition or as alternatives to long-term residential care? If so, what can be done to promote or encourage such solutions.
2. Who should be responsible for long-term support for the elderly? Themselves? Their families? The federal or provincial governments? Charitable institutions? Some combination of these? To what extent?
3. What, if anything, should be done to promote physical, spiritual, and emotional health among residents and staff in public and private homes and long-term care facilities? For example, are such facilities sometimes too large for proper inter-human connection, or sanitation? Is centralization of management of such facilities a concern? For example, can over-centralization affect the rates of infection or spread of viruses, etc.?

### Education

1. It has been suggested that too many Canadians fail to understand basic democratic principles, such as the responsibilities of federal, provincial, and local governments, and the proper roles of non-governmental institutions such as charities, schools, businesses, news media, and moral and religious organizations. What, if anything, can or should the provincial government do in order to promote a more comprehensive understanding of civics and the proper roles of institutions in Ontario?
2. Should a course of study of economics be mandatory in high school? If so, what topics should be included? Macro economics (the study of provincial, national, and international economics)? Micro economics (the study of personal budgeting and financing, etc.?) Both? To what extent?
3. Should natural family planning (NFP) techniques be taught in high school?
4. Should history courses be required in high school? If so, how many? What topics should be covered?

### Culture, Arts & Tourism

Pope Francis has spoken of “ideological” or “cultural” colonization, in the process of which the popular and dominant values of the powerful are imposed on local populations. When decisions are made by governments regarding the purpose of investments injected into arts and culture, who is being consulted? Whose voices are being listened to?

# An Economy at the Service of All People

The Dignity of Work | Housing & Poverty Reduction | Jobs, Unions, & Employment | Corporations, Competition & Consumers

***“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.” (Matthew 6:33)***

## Catholic Teaching

*Jesus said to the crowds, “Therefor I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? ...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.”*

Matthew 6:25-33

Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal. Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, 109

### The Dignity & Importance of Work

The use of one’s gifts to seek and serve God necessarily includes work, by which humans cooperate with God in God’s continuing act of creation. Work has a place of honour because it is a source of the conditions for a decent life, and is, in principle, an effective instrument against poverty. But one must not succumb to the temptation of making an idol of work, for the ultimate and definitive meaning of life is not to be found in work. Work is essential, but it is God — and not work — who is the origin of life and the final goal of man.

The underlying principle of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. The demand of justice, which stems from it, precedes concerns for profit: “Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it” (Prov. 15:16). “Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice” (Prov. 16:8). – 257, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.



### An Economy to Serve People

The party advocates measuring economic progress and wellbeing with evidence-based data, including:

- replacing the GDP as the key metric of government success with an Index of Wellbeing to better measure societal progress, economic and environmental wellbeing, and people’s quality of life, and
- using the system to inform government spending and programming.

### Dignity of Work

As a matter of priority within its platform, the party advocates:

- repeal of Bill 124, paying PSWs, nurses and ECEs a fair wage and hiring 33,000 nurses.

### Poverty Reduction

#### Basic Income

The party advocates:

- phasing in a Basic Income, with the first step being to double ODSP and OW rates and reduce aggressive clawbacks.
- eliminating any unnecessary red tape, reporting requirements, and other barriers typically faced by those needing financial support.
- maintaining all existing supplementary supports that are available with current income assistance programs.
- including meaningful consultation with people who have lived experience with poverty and existing social assistance programs in the design of all programs and services aimed at client-centred approaches for reducing poverty.
- annual reporting of report disaggregated data on the proportion of the population that experiences chronic homelessness, unmet health needs, food insecurity, lack of literacy, and low-paid work.
- prohibiting “payday” lending that takes advantage of those facing financial hardship as a violation of anti-racketeering laws, and work with credit unions to develop a low-cost, small loan alternative to help people get out of debt.

### Housing

#### Thriving Communities

As a priority within its platform, the party advocates:

- freezing urban boundaries, building 1.5M homes and providing people with more choices such as triplexes, fourplexes, and walk up apartments.
- clamping down on speculation because homes are for people, not speculators.
- investing \$1 billion per year to build 182,000 affordable community rental homes, including 60,000 supportive homes over the next decade.

The party states that:

- thriving communities are places where there are a mix of homes people can afford near transit, amenities and parks. Unfortunately, the affordability crisis means that finding an affordable home to rent or buy is pushing people further and further away and forcing them into long, soul-crushing commutes., while turning home ownership into a pipedream for most Ontarians.
- it’s plan begins with cracking down on land speculators unlocking solutions like multiplexes and midrise apartments, and restoring protections for renters.
- building dense, mixed-use connected communities is best for the environment, as it cuts down on car pollution and spares natural areas from more urban sprawl. It envisions bustling main streets, bike lanes, urban gardens, electric buses, convenient EV charging spots, walkable streets, and more.

The party advocates:



Work is not only an essential part of life, but when we work in accordance with our inner passions – our individual vocations – it is a joy. And it is also an obligation to one’s family, neighbors, and nation. Man must work, both because the Creator has commanded it and in order to respond to the need to maintain and develop his own humanity. We are heirs of the work of generations and at the same time shapers of the future of all who will live after us. – 274, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

But work, and particularly dignified work, is not readily available for all who seek it. Those who are unemployed or underemployed suffer the profound negative consequences that such a situation creates in a personality and they run the risk of being marginalized within society, of becoming victims of social exclusion... –289, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### Poverty Reduction

The poor, the marginalized and in all cases those whose living conditions interfere with their proper growth should be the focus of particular concern. To this end, the preferential option for the poor should be reaffirmed in all its force... Today, this love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without health care and, above all, those without hope of a better future.” – 182, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Catholics are called to remember Jesus’ own words: What we do to the least among us, we do to Him. – *Matthew 25:31-46*

“Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work”. – Pope Francis, *Laudato si’*, 128

### An Economy to Serve People

*I encourage financial experts and political leaders to ponder the words of one of the sages of antiquity: ‘Not to share one’s wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs...’ Money must serve, not rule! –Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 57-58*

The development of economic activity and growth in production are meant to provide for the needs of human beings. Economic life is not meant solely to multiply goods produced and increase profit or power; it is ordered first of all

- working with nonprofits to build 182,000 affordable community housing rental homes because everybody deserves a roof over their head.
- because community is not only a home but also streets, parks, workplaces, schools, and shops that give communities their spirit and identity, building communities where residents can access work, services and recreation within 15 minutes of home.
- addressing urgent needs of rural and Northern communities for high-speed Internet passenger rail service.

### Affordable Housing

The party notes that:

- housing affordability is a real challenge to many people across the province, with costs rising faster than incomes. Many households are spending more than 30% of their income to meet their basic housing needs
- the struggle to find affordable housing is different for residents of Northern communities, small towns, and rural counties than in the GTHA. But it’s a challenge across the province. There are no neighbourhoods in Barrie, Guelph, Hamilton, Kitchener, Peterborough, Ottawa or Thunder Bay where the average one or two-bedroom apartment is affordable for a full-time minimum wage worker.
- there is an urgent need to build more well-designed, affordable, purpose-built rental housing and to repair and maintain the supply already available.
- its also necessary to work toward ending homelessness

The party advocates:

- mandatory inclusionary zoning and requiring a minimum of 20% affordable units in all housing projects above a certain size.
- creating seed funding for co-operative housing through direct funding and mortgage support.
- providing nonprofit housing providers with the support and access to capital needed to purchase rental buildings to maintain affordability in perpetuity and exploring pre-emptive right-to-buy for nonprofits.
- partnering with nonprofits, co-ops, and community land trusts to use public land for permanently affordable rental housing and attainable home ownership options through low-cost long-term leases.
- prioritising development approval processes for projects led by or in partnership with non-profit housing providers, and providing low-interest loans via a new revolving fund.
- creating more pathways to ownership, including allowing single family dwellings to be divided into multiple condominium units; ending blind bidding to ensure that the home purchase process is transparent; making home inspections mandatory, at the seller’s expense, to save new homebuyers money on unexpected repairs; consulting on and developing a down payment support program to help low and middle income first-time homebuyers; developing and supporting alternative home-ownership pilot programs such as co-housing, tiny homes, and rent-to-own to assist low and middle income first-time homebuyers.
- increasing incentives and streamlining the application process for first-time homeowners to add affordable rental units to their primary residence to help pay down their mortgage.

### Support for Renters

The party advocates:

- reinstating rent controls on all units to regulate rental increases year-to-year and implementing vacancy control to limit rent increases between tenancies, including establishing a clear system that governs which renovations are necessary and can qualify for an increase in rent.
- extending financial support to 311,000 Ontario households via the portable housing benefit.
- updating and strengthening Residential Tenancies Act sections that deal with the state of repair for multi-unit buildings to ensure tenants have homes that are safe.
- strengthening rules and penalties for renovations and bad faith evictions to keep apartments affordable, and increased funding for the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) to hire additional adjudicators, add transparency to the appointment process, and eliminate forced online hearings. This will help address delays so that both landlords and tenants have timely access to justice.

### Speculation and corruption in the housing market

The party advocates:

- implementing a multiple property speculation tax on people and corporations who own more than two houses or condominium units in Ontario. The tax will begin at 20% on the third home and increase with each additional property owned.
- working with municipalities to implement a province-wide vacant homes tax to make it harder to use vacant homes as a lucrative place to park cash.
- implementing an anti-flipping tax on quick turnaround sales.
- cracking down on money laundering and implement a beneficial ownership registry to avoid the practice of nameless companies trading properties.
- implementation of a database that tracks pre-construction condo sales, and requiring developers will to collect and report comprehensive information about buyers to provincial tax authorities to ensure compliance.
- working with all levels of government and housing experts to develop regulations to ease the financialization of both affordable rental housing stock and single family homes.

to the service of persons, of the whole man, and of the entire human community. For many people, a living wage and dignified housing are beyond reach. – 2426, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The planning capacity of a society oriented towards the common good and looking to the future is measured... above all on the basis of the employment prospects that it is able to offer. Maintaining employment depends more and more on one's professional capabilities. Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one's responsibilities.

Young people should be taught to act upon their own initiative, to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves. - 271-290, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

### ***Small businesses, trades, and crafts***

The decentralization of production, which assigns to smaller companies several tasks previously undertaken by larger production interests, gives vitality and new energy to the area of small and medium-sized businesses. In this way, alongside traditional artisans there emerge new businesses characterized by small production interests at work in modern production sectors or in decentralized activities of larger companies.

Work in small and medium-sized businesses, the work of artisans and independent work can represent an occasion to make the actual work experience more human, both in terms of the possibility of establishing positive personal relationships in smaller-sized communities and in terms of the opportunities for greater initiative and industriousness. In these sectors, however, there are more than just a few cases of unjust treatment, of poorly paid and, above all, uncertain work. – 315, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

### ***Industries, Innovation, & Agriculture***

Thanks to technological innovations, the world is being enriched with new professions while others are disappearing. In the present phase of transition there is a continuous movement of workers from the industrial sector to that of services... In particular, there is an increase in...part-time, temporary and “non-traditional” employment... – 313, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

### ***Housing First to end homelessness***

The party advocates:

- restoring the goal of ending homelessness in Ontario within ten years, including reinstating the homelessness census cancelled by the current government.
- ensuring that stable, permanent housing solutions are the first priority when helping those in need.
- engaging communities having lived experience with homelessness in program development, as well as communities that face disproportionate levels of homelessness, including newcomers and racialized people.
- to expand housing options for people in crisis and transition, building 60,000 permanent supportive housing units over the next decade through innovative partnerships with public, private, and non-profit housing organisations; developing temporary and permanent supportive modular housing projects on provincially owned land as quickly as possible; increasing annual funding for women's shelters as well as safe and accessible transitional and supportive housing options for women and their families; and increasing funding for culturally appropriate transitional housing.

### ***Jobs, Unions & Employment***

#### ***Workers' Rights***

The party states that:

- the province is on the cusp of a major transformation in the world of work. The rising number of people in the gig economy deserve the same rights and protections as other workers.
- it believes in treating people with dignity and fairness. This is one reason it supports immediate increases in social assistance as the first step towards a Basic Income Guarantee that will provide economic security and resilience.

The party advocates:

- immediate improvement in workers' rights and wages, including increasing the floor of the minimum wage each year by \$1, starting at \$16 in 2022, with a top-up in cities where the cost of living is higher; increasing the number of provincially-legislated paid sick days from three to ten, and providing small businesses financial support to fund the program.
- banning employers from requiring a sick note from a medical practitioner when an employee is ill.
- restoring and improving workers' rights to collective bargaining and immediately repeal of Bill 124 and the problematic sections of Bill 106.
- providing all workers with full and equal access to employment rights and benefits programs like EI, CPP, and WSIB, as well as equal pay for equal work, regardless of whether the employee is permanent, part-time, temporary, or casual.
- immediately ending the practice of deeming whereby the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) unfairly cuts benefits for workers.
- reviewing the Pension Benefits Act to ensure 100% coverage of defined benefit pensions by the Pension Benefit Guarantee Fund in an involuntary pension plan wind up.

To strengthen rights and protections for gig and temp workers, the party advocates implementing a “Gig Workers’ Bill of Rights” including, but not limited to:

- enacting a presumption of employee status and the ABC test under the Employment Standards Act.
- ensuring payment for all hours of work, from app sign-in until sign-out, with a clear and concise breakdown of how pay is calculated.
- ensuring gig workers real wages are not reduced below the minimum wage by compensating for necessary work related expenses.
- making gig work count towards Permanent Residency applications.
- closing the loopholes that can lead to precarious work, including stricter regulations relating to the temp agency industry.
- mandating that temp agency workers earn the same as directly hired workers when they do the same work, and that temp workers must become full hired employees after three months.
- developing a program of portable extended health benefits for workers in the gig economy, retail and hospitality sectors that is tied to the employee even if they were to change employment.

#### ***Health care workers***

The party advocates:

- establishing a nurse-led task force to make recommendations on matters related to the recruitment, retention and safety of nurses.
- immediate repeal of Bill 124 and the problematic sections of Bill 106 and allowing all healthcare workers to bargain collectively for fair wages. In the interim, provide a minimum hourly wage of \$35 to registered practical nurses and \$25 to personal support workers.
- increasing nursing program enrollments by 10% every year for 7 years and the number of trained nurse practitioners by 50% by 2030 to enable us to meet our target of at least 30,000 additional nurses.
- fast-tracking credential approvals for 15,000 international healthcare workers, including nurses and personal support workers, and supporting Black and Indigenous healthcare workers through greater mentorship opportunities, partnerships with allies, and equitable human resources processes.

### ***Unions & Workers' Rights***

The demands of competition, technological innovation and the complexities of financial fluxes must be brought into harmony with the defense of workers and their rights. – 313, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Any form of materialism or economic tenet that tries to reduce the worker to a mere instrument of production, a simple labour force with an exclusively material value, would hopelessly distort the essence of work and strip it of its most noble and basic human quality. 270-271, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Among the rights of workers, the Church recognizes:

- the right to a just wage;
  - the right to rest;
  - the right “to a working environment and to manufacturing processes which are not harmful to the workers’ physical health or to their moral integrity”;
  - the right that one’s personality in the workplace should be safeguarded “without suffering any affront to one’s conscience or personal dignity”;
  - the right to appropriate subsidies that are necessary for the subsistence of unemployed workers and their families;
  - the right to a pension and to insurance for old age, sickness, and in case of work-related accidents;
  - the right to social security connected with maternity;
  - the right to assemble and form associations.
- 301, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Church recognizes the fundamental role played by labour unions... Such organizations, while pursuing their specific purpose with regard to the common good, are a positive influence for social order and solidarity, and are therefore an indispensable element of social life. Work, because of its subjective or personal character, is superior to every other factor connected with productivity; this principle applies, in particular, with regard to capital.

The Church’s social doctrine teaches that relations within the world of work must be marked by cooperation: hatred and attempts to eliminate the other are completely unacceptable. This is also the case because in every social system both “labour” and “capital” represent indispensable components of the process of production.

No Christian, in light of the fact that he belongs to a united and fraternal community, should feel that he has the right not to work and to live at the expense of others (cf. 2 Thes 3:6-12). Rather, all are charged... to make it a point of honour to

## **Industries, Corporations, and Consumers**

### ***Transition to sustainable economy***

The party states that:

- the path to a net-zero future is clear, but not easy. It is ready to lead the way.
- it advocates building livable communities and a green economy, including green innovations that lead to new businesses, careers and better jobs, and that make it more costly for industries to pollute and more profitable to decarbonize; covering tuition costs for skilled trades and clean energy to launch a massive green workforce; and giving a hand to those who need it as the world makes the transition.
- in order to attract some of the billions of dollars that are flowing into the new climate economy, Ontario needs to show that it takes climate change seriously.

In particular, the party advocates:

- **ensuring a just and equitable transition** by focusing at least 25% of the overall benefits of public investments to reduce climate pollution on disadvantaged communities; funding a \$6B climate bonus for low-income households by adding a 1% climate surcharge levy on the province’s top 10% income earners; focusing conservation subsidies on retrofits that reduce energy use for those unduly affected by the cost of energy, especially rural, remote, low-income, and Indigenous communities; redirecting the annual \$7B taxpayer subsidy for electricity prices to support energy efficiency and climate action, maintaining energy subsidies only to those in need while also providing free access to upgrades that lower energy costs and consumption; and conducting a transition census of vulnerable jobs and economic sectors to develop strategies that help workers and businesses adapt to a new climate economy.

- **training a workforce for the jobs of tomorrow**, including creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs by retrofitting 40% of existing homes and workplaces to net zero by 2030, and 100% by 2040; modernizing the apprenticeship application process to provide candidates with an electronic, single-entry access to the apprenticeship application and registration process; reducing the ratio of journeypersons to apprentices to one-to-one; increasing training opportunities by providing incentives for businesses that participate in training and certification programs in growth areas such as green building, biomedical technology, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation; providing incentives for businesses involved with green retrofits, reforestation, and other forms of green economic activity to provide Ontario youth with valuable job experience; and giving 60,000 people the skills and experience to work in the green economy through a year of free college tuition plus a year of guaranteed work when they graduate with targeted recruitment of women, Indigenous people, and racialized communities.

- **supporting and growing green businesses** by building on Ontario’s strengths in mining, innovation, financing, and auto manufacturing to create a strong electric vehicle manufacturing strategy and electric transportation industry supply chain; providing incentives for businesses investing in energy efficient and low-carbon equipment, buildings, and vehicle fleets; setting a minimum and increasing percentage of public procurements of GHG intensive materials that must be low-carbon, providing a market for heavy industries that are transitioning to low-carbon technologies and processes; and redirecting existing business support programs to help small and medium-sized businesses scale up or transition to the green economy.

- **preparing provincial industries for the new climate economy**, by scaling up EV innovation and production through an EV technology innovation fund and a Climate Bank; setting strict standards for polluting industries and helping them meet their goals via support from low-interest loans, the Ontario Centres of Excellence, collaboration with clean-tech providers, and public procurement; funding demonstration, and commercialisation of low-carbon industries and low-carbon capital investments in existing industries through grants and loans.

### ***Farming & food production***

The party states that:

- the province is losing farmland at the alarming rate of 175 acres per day, largely to urban sprawl and aggregate mining.
- Ontario needs to provide permanent protections for prime agricultural land to keep it from being destroyed by urban sprawl, highways, and gravel mining that threatens our groundwater supply.
- it supports local farm-to-table agriculture, making it easier for small farms to use the latest technology, access the internet and turn a profit, in addition to supporting farmers in adopting more sustainable practices so that farming and climate action go hand-in-hand.
- healthy soil is essential for provincial farms and the food system. It impacts yield and quality, water and nutrient retention, resilience, biodiversity, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. It is necessary to support family farms while they protect this precious resource.
- it advocates creating better connections between farmers and consumers and building a stronger, healthier regional food system.
- it’s increasingly expensive for Ontarians to put food on the table, and the current sprawl agenda of paving over the farmland that feeds us does not help this.

In particular, the party advocates:

work with their own hands, so as to be dependent on nobody (1 Thes 4:12), and to practise a solidarity which is also material by sharing the fruits of their labour with “those in need” (Eph 4:28). – 264, 305-307, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

### ***Corporations & Competition, and Consumers***

***You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.***  
– the 10th Commandment

The individual profit of an economic enterprise, although legitimate, must never become the sole objective. Social utility is an objective of even higher order. When the free market carries out the important functions mentioned above it becomes a service to the common good and to integral human development. When focused on profit alone, however, the market can degenerate into an inhuman and alienating institution, with uncontrollable repercussions.

Freedom in the economic sector... must be regulated by appropriate legal norms so that it will be placed at the service of integral human freedom... A great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed, including the education of consumers in the responsible use of their power of choice, the formation of a strong sense of responsibility among producers and among people in the mass media in particular, as well as necessary intervention by public authorities. In order to balance the principle of solidarity with the rights and obligations of the individual, the State's intervention in the economic environment must be neither invasive nor absent, but commensurate with society's real needs. “The State has a duty to sustain business activities by creating conditions which will ensure job opportunities, by stimulating those activities where they are lacking or by supporting them in moments of crisis. The State has the further right to intervene when particular monopolies create delays or obstacles to development. –305-307, 351, 376 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

There is a growing loss of the sense of history, which leads to even further breakup. A kind of “deconstructionism”, whereby human freedom claims to create everything starting from zero, is making headway in today's culture. The one thing it leaves in its wake is the drive to limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism –12, *Fratelli Tutti*

### ***Transportation & Infrastructure***

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. Among other things, these demands concern commitment to the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food,

- **protecting farmland**, including freezing urban boundaries now, permanently protecting protect prime farmland from being lost to non-agricultural use; and moving class 1 and 2 soils from the Whitebelt to the Greenbelt.

- **increasing access and support for local, nutritious food**, including introduction of a nutritious school lunch program for the public school system; providing start-up funding and land for community-owned healthy food markets, community gardens, and rooftop growing spaces, particularly in urban food deserts; setting measurable, made-in-Ontario food purchasing targets for all public institutions; treating surplus food as a valuable resource, first to feed people, then animals, and never to send it to landfill; and providing tax incentives for local food and beverage manufacturers who purchase inputs grown by local farmers.

- **supporting local sustainable farming** by passing an Organic Products Act to regulate the use of the term “organic” within Ontario; investing in research and innovation that improves the sustainability of how we grow, produce, and distribute our food; revising crop insurance programs to support farming practices that improve soil carbon and soil health; incentivizing on-farm composting of agricultural waste that results in biogas recovery; investing in an Organic Growth Strategy to support transition, small-scale certification, access to organic advisors and capital, expansion of organic research programs, and increased promotion of Ontario organic products; banning the routine use of unnecessary antibiotics in healthy animals; and paying farmers for programs that produce, enhance and maintain ecosystem services leading to cleaner water and air, habitat, carbon sequestration and climate resiliency on agricultural lands (e.g. ALUS).

- **investing in the next generation of farmers**, including creating policies that support the retention of family-owned farms, farming by experienced farmers among new Canadians, and the succession of farms to a younger generation of farmers; providing education and grant opportunities to encourage students to enter into the agri-food business; promoting training in specialty programs that focus on sustainable practices and soil-health within agricultural schools; continuing to enhance the supply management system to include more farm products and ensure offsets or grants for those looking to enter the system or with a low er ability to produce; rebuilding agricultural extension programs and hiring soil-health focused agronomists; purchasing available farmland and placing it in protected Land Trusts so it can be made available for dramatically lower costs to new farmers who would otherwise not be able to afford farmland; and advocating for the federal government to restrict farming products from future trade deals.

- **making family farming more profitable**, by ensuring the Federal-Provincial-Territorial grocery retailer code of conduct is mandatory, enforceable, transparent and benefits both customers and farmers; increasing investments in the Risk Management Program to meet or exceed the previous 85% coverage to improve financial security for farmers; establishing a food processing infrastructure fund to support investments by Ontario-based companies in food processing facilities; eliminating property tax penalties for farmers with small-scale, value-added production facilities on farm; protecting farmers against losses for up to ten years as they transition from chemical agriculture to soil-health agriculture; and shifting program dollars from supporting industrial and intensive animal agriculture to supporting soil health and regenerative agriculture.

### ***Transit & Transportation***

The party states that:

- transportation is the biggest source of pollution in Ontario; therefore investing in clean transit systems is a priority for Ontario Greens  
- people need affordable options to get around, and they need relief right now.”

The party advocates:

- decreasing the use of fossil fuel vehicles responsible for an enormous share of climate pollution, and moving rapidly towards low carbon transportation options, including electric cars, buses, bikes and walking.  
- reducing congestion and stopping urban sprawl, by building livable, affordable, and connected communities so people aren't forced to spend hours in expensive, soul-crushing commutes.  
- promoting regional public transit, including the GO and Northlander, rather than climate-polluting supersprawler highways, and other healthier, lower carbon options for their commutes, by dedicating permanent, long-term funding for walking and cycling infrastructure.

In particular, the party advocates:

- **connecting communities with clean, efficient transit options**, by ending the building of new highways and cancelling planned unnecessary highways such as Highway 413, Holland Marsh Highway, and the widening of Highway 417; creating dedicated truck lanes on Highway 407 to reduce congestion and the need for more highways; prioritizing public transit in all transportation planning decisions; cutting transit fares in half for at least three months across all Ontario transit systems, including municipal, to help people avoid the soaring costs of gas; restoring the 50% provincial cost-share for transit operations in order to reduce fare increases for users; electrifying the provincial transit system as quickly as possible, including by adding 4,000 electric and fuel-cell buses by 2030; tripling the number of dedicated bus lanes by 2025; ensuring all transportation decisions are evidence-based, without political interference, and including consultation with planning experts throughout the planning process.



- **increasing transit connections outside of the GTHA** by expanding all-day, 2-way GO service to leave every 15 minutes during peak periods and every 30 minutes off peak, including weekend service; offering at least one express service each way during weekday peak periods; establishing a clean, affordable, accessible intercity electric bus service to connect all communities across the province, ensuring connections in small, rural communities and dedicated bus lanes; fully funding the Northlander passenger rail service; exploring on-demand systems for public transit, especially in suburban and rural communities; and supporting regional fare integration and seamless travel between transit systems.

- **connecting neighbourhoods with people-powered transportation** by implementing Vision Zero to prioritise road safety for pedestrians and cyclists; creating a fund for municipalities to build protected bike lanes while preserving safety and curb access for seniors and people with disabilities; supporting sharing and rental systems for bikes, e-bikes and low-emission vehicles with incentives geared to income; requiring secure bike parking and e-bike charging to be provided in new and existing multi-unit buildings, in surface parking lots, and at all government buildings; redesigning roads to reduce motorists' speed in areas that are a particular danger to pedestrians and cyclists, and eliminating hazards such as slip lanes; requiring all new or resurfaced highways to have paved shoulders for safe cycling; and establishing commuter cycling networks across Ontario.

- **connecting people with better broadband** by making broadband internet an essential service and rolling out high-speed access across the province; using regulations to level the playing field for small, local internet service providers; and supporting provincial funding for programs to study best practices for teleworking as a climate-friendly alternative to commuting.

#### **Small & Local Businesses**

The party states that an essential part of any community is small business. It wants to make it easier for small businesses to succeed. For those who live in urban cities, rural hamlets or somewhere in between, communities can have local shops, services and parks that are close by and easy to get to.

The party advocates:

- **helping small neighbourhood businesses recover and thrive** by expanding the Digital Main Street program to include nonprofit organisations and provide fulfilment platforms that better enable small, local businesses to compete with large online companies; developing a small business grant program for Black-owned businesses; supporting the increased staycation tax credit and ensuring it includes dining at restaurants; working with insurance providers to develop an affordable commercial insurance program for small businesses; developing a program to help COVID-affected small businesses file for bankruptcy in a fair and non-punitive way; improving opportunities for small local businesses and nonprofits to win public contracts through targets and by decreasing current financial and informational barriers; allowing Ontario's craft spirits, brewers, and wine producers to open independent, off-site stores; and allowing boutique wine, craft beer and artisan spirit retail outlets; improving the distribution network to work for small businesses; and allowing access for hospitality to purchase from these suppliers at a wholesale price of up to 20%.

- **creating a new regulatory framework for small business**, by undertaking a review of regulations in order to weed out red tape and costs that disproportionately affect small businesses; creating standardised leases to ensure fairness and transparency and ensure that priority is given to existing tenants when leases are up for renewal; creating rent control guidelines for year-over-year increases that apply to all commercial tenants, including new tenants; and implementing a mechanism to enforce rules and resolve disputes.

- **supporting local arts and social enterprises**, by decreasing land taxes payable for buildings in which below market rent opportunities are available to creative and social enterprises; developing a made-in-Ontario social enterprise strategy with the nonprofit and cooperative sectors to drive local job creation and support rural, remote, and urban self-reliance; creating a stabilisation fund for the non-profit sector to ensure that nonprofits and charities can help rebuild the economy and communities; affirming the arms-length operations of, and increase investment in, the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Trillium Foundation; and reinstating support for the Indigenous Culture Fund.



#### **An Economy at the Service of All People**

The preface of the party's 2025 platform states that:

- growing the provincial economy starts with investing in workers, communities and healthcare, not just the rich.
- it proposes investment in needed roads, hospitals and schools, reducing gridlock, and supporting economic growth and diversification.

Specifically, the party advocates:

- guaranteeing everyone a family doctor in four years, ensuring that mental healthcare is covered under OHIP, and supporting seniors to age with dignity.
- slashing taxes, saving taxpayers thousands annually by permanently cutting income tax for workers and eliminating sales tax (HST) on home heating and hydro bills.
- building more affordable homes by eliminating development charges, restoring the dream of homeownership, and bringing fairness back to the rental market.
- permanently doubling ODSP so Ontario's most vulnerable are not left behind.
- clearing the school repair backlog, improving safety at school, and providing education that prepares Ontario for the future.

**To grow the provincial economy against threatened US tariffs, the party advocates:**

- supporting Ontario businesses with a new Fight Tariffs Fund that gives them access to lower-than-market interest rates (government rates).
- prioritizing infrastructure investment in hospitals, schools, roads, and public transit.
- ensuring that Ontario taxpayer dollars support local businesses and jobs by excluding American companies like Starlink from procurement.
- working with other provinces to eliminate nonsensical interprovincial trade barriers by adopting a policy of mutual recognition of skills and regulated professions and building a truly Team Canada approach to growth and diversification.
- cutting youth unemployment by half by creating 40,000 new paid co-op, internship and apprenticeship positions through tax credits for employers who hire young people.
- launching a provincial Growth Strategy to ensure Ontario becomes a competitive place to attract talent, set up and grow a business, afford fixed costs such as clean energy and rent, and have best-in-class consumer protections.
- negotiating in good faith and eliminating the practice of using the notwithstanding clause to trample on workers' rights.
- offering a \$150,000 bonus to patriotic nurses and doctors who are currently practicing in the U.S. but want to come home and support our publicly-funded healthcare system.

### ***Cost of Living***

The party advocates slashing taxes, including:

- introducing a tax cut to deliver \$1,150 in permanent financial relief for Ontario families, including permanently cutting taxes for Ontario workers on taxable income between \$51,446 and \$75,000 by 22%, from the current 9.15% to 7.15%; as well as eliminating sales tax (HST) on home heating and hydro bills.
- reducing and/or eliminating personal income tax for low-income workers by indexing the Low-Income Workers Tax Credit.
- creating a permanent tax credit worth 20% of the installation cost of energy-saving technologies at home, such as heat pumps.
- making it easier for small businesses to compete with big box stores by slashing small business taxes by 50%, delivering up to \$18,000 of tax relief to roughly 450,000 businesses that employ almost three million people.

### **Poverty Reduction**

#### ***Housing***

The party proposes building more affordable homes, by cutting taxes on housing and restoring the dream of homeownership by:

- eliminating the Ontario Land Transfer Tax for first-time homebuyers, seniors downsizing and non-profit homebuilders.
- scrapping development charges on new housing, cutting costs by as much as \$170,000 on each new family-sized home.
- introducing a Better Communities Fund to help municipalities cover infrastructure costs.

#### ***Rental Fairness***

To promote affordability, predictability and fairness in the rental market, the party advocates:

- building more co-op and rental apartments by removing punitive and discriminatory extra taxes like Community Benefits Charges.
- introducing fair, phased-in rent control.
- resolving new landlord-tenant disputes in under two months and clearing the 53,000-case backlog at the Landlord-Tenant Board urgently.
- establishing a Rental Emergency Support for Tenants (REST) Fund, a provincial rent bank to provide short-term, interest-free loans for tenants facing financial emergencies to prevent evictions and homelessness.
- modernizing building codes and subjective design rules (ex. setback, step back, angular plane), establishing a provincial catalogue of pre-approved housing designs, creating more housing near transit and arterial roads following best practices adopted by other jurisdictions like British Columbia and speeding up the conversion of underutilized offices and commercial spaces to homes.

### **Corporations, Competition & Consumers**

#### ***Consumer Rights***



To protect consumer rights, the party advocates a comprehensive review of provincial auto insurance practices and premiums, which have become the most expensive in Canada, in order to bring costs down for consumers, improve accident care and better protect owners from auto theft.

### **Infrastructure & Transit**

To build needed infrastructure while protecting the environment, the party advocates:

- investing in municipal and regional road repair and maintenance, widening provincial highways in congested areas, upgrading winter maintenance of key provincial highways, fixing and repairing bridges and add turning lanes where needed.
- reducing gridlock and investing in much-needed provincial projects, such as uploading and expanding the Ottawa LRT, electrifying and increasing GO service throughout the GTA and southwestern Ontario, and expediting the delivery of planned transit projects in Kitchener-Waterloo, Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton.
- axing the current government's carbon tax and developing a Made in Ontario environmental action plan in conjunction with the federal government and other provinces that protects Ontario's land, water, air, biodiversity and communities.
- protecting prime farmland, including the Greenbelt and championing a sustainable agri-food sector to support farmers and rural communities.
- leveraging the Better Communities Fund to keep municipalities whole and keep property taxes low.



### **Economy at the Service of All**

The party states that:

- life is more expensive than ever, from basics like groceries to the cost of housing.
- bad deals and wasteful schemes have cost everyone.
- it will take immediate action to fight rising costs.

### **Poverty Reduction; Consumer Protection**

To fight rising costs, the party advocates:

- controlling grocery prices, by: (1) providing a Monthly Grocery Rebate based on how much the cost of essential groceries like milk, bread and vegetables have increased under the current government, tied to income and numbers of people in households and (2) bringing transparency to grocery prices by forcing big retailers to 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 cracking down on price fixing and other unfair practices by establishing a new consumer watchdog to keep food prices fair.
- bringing in real rent control, also known as vacancy control, to protect tenants and maintain the province's existing supply of affordable homes.
- creating a universal School Food Program so that every child, from Kenora to Windsor is set up to succeed, saving families money every day and supporting local farms by using fresh food prepared and grown in Ontario.
- implementing \$10/day child care after years of delays by the current government, creating 53,000 new, public or not-for-profit affordable childcare spaces by working with providers and service managers, and by removing the rules that limit municipalities in creating their own child care spaces.
- doubling social assistance rates for ODSP and OW to get people out of deep poverty.
- ensuring an abundant supply of reliable and affordable energy, towards a legislated target of achieving a net-zero economy no later than 2050, including making evidence-based and cost-effective investments in clean energy and efficiency from a mix of non-emitting sources, storage and conservation.
- completing long-planned priority transmission investments to deliver abundant clean energy to expanding industries, such as auto manufacturers and greenhouse growers.
- providing 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.

### **Housing**

The party states that:

- housing is a human right. Everybody deserves a decent home they can afford, in the community they want to live in.
- prior governments' failure to get homes built and keep rents down has made it nearly impossible for Ontarians to buy or rent a decent home they can afford. Housing starts are down, and homelessness up. Urgent action is required.

To make more new affordable homes available, the party advocates:

- as a part of the largest homebuilding program in generations, using 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.
- enabling 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 and UK's Council Homes Acquisition Programme (CHAP).
- protecting the existing supply of affordable rentals, including completing renovations and repairs
- creating, through this program, thousands of new jobs in residential construction, while keeping skilled labour employed in periods of market slowdown.
- creating 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.
- updating 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.
- helping municipalities address their housing needs by uploading the cost of housing, emergency shelters, and homelessness prevention programs back to the province, while maintaining locally focused delivery through municipal service managers; and working with municipalities to create incentives for affordable housing in the marketplace, including development charge easements.
- ensuring that new homes are future-proofed for the energy transition with low-cost EV-ready infrastructure, so that homeowners with garages can install electric vehicle chargers cheaply when they choose to make the switch, instead of paying thousands of dollars in retrofitting costs.
- accelerating the expansion of broadband internet infrastructure into Northern Ontario and end years of delays that, including canceling an existing \$100 million contract with Elon Musk's Starlink and replacing it with a Canadian alternative that offers better value and security for Ontario consumers.
- uploading back costs that were unfairly downloaded onto municipal taxpayers, including the costs of maintaining provincially owned "connecting link" highways, including providing adequate, predictable and consistent formula-based provincial funding to ensure that municipalities are able to maintain, snow-clear and repair their roads, bridges and other infrastructure, with additional support for small and Northern municipalities that must look after large areas with small tax bases.
- protecting Greenbelt, and Ontario's prime farmland, by focusing growth sustainably and cost-effectively within the pre-2022 urban boundaries, keeping infrastructure costs down in the process.

To protect renters, the party advocates:

- immediate introduction of 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.
- closing the loophole that exempts units built since 2018 from rent control and bringing in a fairer system of low interest repair loans so the cost of maintaining buildings isn't borne by tenants, and small landlords are supported with unexpected repair costs.

### **Jobs, Industries, Unions, Transportation & Infrastructure**

The party states that:

- 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 Ontarians face this serious economic challenge to our country and province, the current prime minister quit his job and plunged the province into an election.

To protect Ontario jobs, the party advocates:

- defending Ontario jobs, including fighting back as part of a strong Team Canada, and building a more tariff-proof Ontario that can withstand future economic threats, while defending Ontario families, jobs, businesses and economy, partnering Ontario industries and unions to protect jobs and pensions of Ontario, especially in the auto, steel, forestry and agricultural sectors.
- accelerating housing and infrastructure work immediately, including fast-tracking building housing of all types and sizes and reprioritizing critical transit projects like Line 2 in Toronto and GO transit expansion.
- buying and building Canadian, making use of Canada's rich resources to fuel Ontario's economy and working to improve interprovincial cooperation and remove barriers to interprovincial trade, including immediately directing provincial agencies to prioritize Canadian goods in their procurement processes; and ensuring that procurement for public infrastructure projects prioritizes Ontario industries and goods like steel, aluminum, lumber, and manufactured goods from impacted sectors.
- securing family incomes with a federal-provincial income assistance plan to protect any worker who loses their job as a result of tariffs, negotiating with the federal government to expand employment insurance and prevent any delays getting EI out to impacted workers and removing provincial income tax on any income supports for workers who experience tariff-related job loss.
- playing on Team Canada, including taking the lead with other provinces and the federal government, speaking with one voice and acting as one Team to protect jobs and the economy and finding new markets for Ontario products and investment opportunities across Canada and around the world.
- strengthening and diversifying Ontario's trade relationships, including seeking out new trade relationships to find new markets for made-in-Ontario products, and encouraging investment in Ontario with democratic allies.
- fighting tariff inflation, to fight rising costs. It has a plan for real rent control, affordable childcare, and fixing traffic for Ontario to fight inflation.

- launching a Premier's Council on the Economy, bringing together business, labour, civil society and municipal leaders to coordinate a strong response that protects the economy, and expanding the Ontario Made Manufacturing Tax Credit, doubling the maximum amount and broadening eligibility to include advanced manufacturing applications, and extending the life of the tax credit to 10 years to enable long term investment.
- launching an Ontario Tariff Fund, an emergency measure providing direct payments to businesses impacted by U.S. tariffs, requiring job retention and fair practices, and filling the gaps of any federal programs to support critical Ontario industries.
- restarting the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program for tariff-impacted industries, to provide immediate relief on property taxes and energy costs for companies that keep jobs in Ontario.
- complete removal of the cap from the Risk Management Program, ensuring the government has the tools it needs to protect Ontario farmers and the jobs they support, and addressing tariff threats on agricultural products like pork, beef, grain products and fresh vegetables by strengthening local supply chains while directing provincial government and provincially-funded entities to adopt Buy Ontario public procurement policies to offset the impact of tariffs on Ontario food exporters.
- supporting Ontario small businesses, creating conditions that will enable local enterprises to thrive, including working 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.
- ensuring that its Buy Ontario plan engages in strategic government procurement from small and medium sized enterprises, leveraging Ontario purchasing power to support Ontario talent.
- not increasing taxes on Ontario small businesses.
- supporting a strong Ontario mining sector, and the tens of thousands of good jobs it provides. In place of the piecemeal and bulldozer-first approach of prior governments, which has failed to develop the Ring of Fire, it proposes beginning a formal consultation process with the Matawa Tribal Council First Nations members, and other impacted First Nations on decisions related to the Ring of Fire to create generational infrastructure, jobs, and revenue sharing opportunities in the North, and help get critical minerals to power Ontario's future.
- doubling Ontario's Career Ready Program so Ontario colleges and universities can create additional work-integrated learning opportunities, creating thousands of new, paid co-op and internship opportunities for young people.
- supporting pathways into the skilled trades, from shop classes to those seeking a career change later in life, with continued investment in the Skills Development Fund and workers' training centres across the province.
- establishing a Childcare Workforce Strategy to make jobs in child care good careers, including developing and implementing a wage grid and decent work standards, including a salary scale starting at \$25 per hour for all child care workers, and \$30 per hour for RECES; paid sick days; paid professional development time; paid programming time.
- establishing 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.
- working with artists and creators to promote and market Ontario's book publishing, film and television, live performance, digital and arts industries; ensuring both the stability and competitiveness of Ontario's film, television and digital tax credits; and strongly supporting Ontario Creates and Ontario Arts Council programs to ensure people throughout the arts and culture sector have the support and respect they need.
- partnering 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.

To promote respect for workers, the party advocates:

- continuing to promote reforms that benefit workers that have been rejected by the current 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.
- ending the practice of deeming where injured workers are 'deemed' to be able to work phantom jobs they don't have, and overhauling the WSIB system to better protect the health and safety of all Ontario workers.
- properly classify app-based gig workers as employees and bring in equal pay legislation, and legally recognizing democratically-ratified union agreements covering gig workers; modernizing the Employment Standards Act to ensure all workers are protected through strong, modern and enforced labour standards legislation.

As a part of its proposal for fighting against rising costs, the party advocates:

- making it easier to form a union and collect the bigger pay cheques that come with it, by returning to a simple card certification system.
- removing any barriers to a newly unionized workplace's first contract being implemented and banning the use of replacement workers during job disputes.

## **Industries**

### ***Small Businesses***

To protect Ontario jobs, the party advocates:

- launching a Premier's Council on the Economy, bringing together business, labour, civil society and municipal leaders to coordinate a strong response that protects the economy, and expanding the Ontario Made Manufacturing Tax Credit, doubling the maximum amount and broadening eligibility to include advanced manufacturing applications, and extending the life of the tax credit to 10 years to enable long term investment.
- launching an Ontario Tariff Fund, an emergency measure providing direct payments to businesses impacted by U.S. tariffs, requiring job retention and fair practices, and filling the gaps of any federal programs to support critical Ontario industries.
- restarting the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program for tariff-impacted industries, to provide immediate relief on property taxes and energy costs for companies that keep jobs in Ontario.
- supporting Ontario small businesses, creating conditions that will enable local enterprises to thrive, including working 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.
- ensuring that its Buy Ontario plan engages in strategic government procurement from small and medium sized enterprises, leveraging Ontario purchasing power to support Ontario talent.
- not increasing taxes on Ontario small businesses.

#### ***Automotive, Steel, Forestry, Agriculture***

To protect Ontario jobs from the threat of tariffs, the party advocates:

- defending Ontario jobs, including fighting back as part of a strong Team Canada, and building a more tariff-proof Ontario that can withstand future economic threats, while defending Ontario families, jobs, businesses and economy, partnering Ontario industries and unions to protect jobs and pensions of Ontario, especially in the auto, steel, forestry and agricultural sectors.

#### ***Transit***

To fight against the rising cost of living, the party advocates making commuting more affordable, reliable and convenient by:

- expanding intercity bus and rail transit, including the Hazel McCallion Line + Mississauga Loop; extending LRT into downtown Brampton and two-way All Day GO to Kitchener, Guelph, Brampton, Niagara, London, and Bowmanville; completing GO stations at Mimico, Oshawa, Clarington, Bowmanville, Grimsby, and Parklawn GO.
- fast-tracking completion of Northlander Passenger Service.
- Supporting Huron Central and Algoma Central Rail Lines.
- making municipal transit service more reliable, frequent, affordable and accessible for riders by restoring 50% provincial funding for municipal transit and paratransit net operational costs.



**As of 23 February 2025, four days prior to the election it called, the party has published no comprehensive updated statement of its proposed policies.**

#### **Economy to Serve People**

The party states that it believes, as a matter of principle:

- that economic freedom, entrepreneurial spirit and the right to private property are essential to economic prosperity and political freedom
- that social justice entails equality of opportunity, including fair and equal treatment for all Ontarians and the provision of support to those in need.

In its 2024 budget the party states that:

- Ontario is on a mission to rebuild its economy. To address an infrastructure deficit, the government is leading the way to get new roads and highways built, while supporting the largest transit expansion in North America.
- the province was left behind with over 300,000 manufacturing jobs lost between the sector's peak in 2004 and 2018. Over the last three years, the province has created more jobs than ever before.
- it is continuing to rebuild Ontario's economy by attracting domestic and international manufacturing investments, expanding the province's electricity capacity, supporting innovation, and helping small businesses thrive.

**On February 20, 2025**, the party published an online statement stating that in order to build the True North, Strong and Free, it proposed to:

- support Canadian sovereignty and economic prosperity by implementing and advocating for policies that make Canada more united and self-reliant.
- advocate for new cross-country infrastructure projects and resource development projects to bind Canada together, reduce dependence on the United States and create new opportunities for Canadian workers and communities., including:

- **Supporting pipelines, rail lines and other critical infrastructure projects to create greater export opportunities** for Canada's oil, gas, critical minerals, agricultural and other natural resources to reach new markets; support for Energy East, Northern Gateway and pipeline projects to Canada's northern coast. With renewed American cooperation and partnership, Ontario would support the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline project.
- **Advocating that the federal government remove unnecessary federal barriers and red tape from major projects under provincial jurisdiction**, including scrapping redundant and wrongheaded impact assessment requirements that unnecessarily raise costs and slow down approvals for nation-building projects like Ontario's new grid-scale nuclear power plants and critical mineral projects in the Ring of Fire.
- **Advocating for a new federal infrastructure program** that provides predictable and long-term funding, particularly for trade-related infrastructure such as airports, ports and transportation infrastructure to help diversify Canada's economy.

- abolishing internal trade barriers that cost the national economy up to \$200 billion every year, reduce our national GDP by up to 7.3 per cent and add up to 14.5 per cent to the costs of goods and services the Canadians purchase across the country, including:

- **Removing all of Ontario's remaining party-specific exemptions following a final assessment under the Canada Free Trade Agreement** and encouraging all other provinces to follow suit.
- **Supporting labour mobility across Canada** by streamlining credential recognition for certified professionals, expanding existing exemptions to more credentialed occupations and reducing existing labour mobility exceptions.
- **Fighting red tape that blocks interprovincial trade** by recognizing regulatory standards and certifications across Canada with Regulatory Recognition Agreements for key sectors such as trucking, to ensure that a good or service that is sold or used in one province or territory can be readily sold or used in all provinces and territories by default.
- **Investing \$50 million to launch the new Ontario Together Trade Fund** to support businesses that make near-term investments to service more interprovincial customers, develop new markets and re-shore critical supply chains.
- **Immediately enabling direct-to-consumer sales of alcohol products** with all willing provinces and territories, which will provide new markets for Ontario wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries and more choice for Ontario consumers, as well as for producers and consumers across Canada.

- ensuring that Canada meets its national and international security and defence obligations, including:

- Strongly advocating **that the federal government immediately increase defence spending to meet and exceed Canada's minimum two per cent NATO commitment** and link procurement to domestic economic development opportunities.
- **Investing \$200 million for the Shipbuilding Grant Program under Ontario's Marine Transportation Strategy** to help make Ontario's shipbuilding industry a full regional partner under the federal government's National Shipbuilding Strategy and secure Canadian contracts to build, retrofit, and repair Canadian Navy ships in Ontario.
- **Creating a new Defence Security Investment Tax Credit** to attract greater investment and job creation in the province and help meet our two per cent of GDP NATO commitment, including by supporting investments in innovative critical technologies such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity to support the future of defence technologies.
- **Providing \$50 million more to Venture Ontario**, the province's venture capital agency, to make dedicated capital fund investments to support domestic start-ups in strategic technology areas that support our national defence.

### ***Affordability***

In its 2024 Budget the party states that:

- inflation and interest rates are up, along with everyday costs. It therefore continues to invest in key public services and lay out a path to a balanced budget without raising taxes or fees.
- in order to put money back in Ontarians' pockets, it is working to make public transit, automobile driving, postsecondary school, and other activities more affordable.
- to help control fuel prices, it proposes to extend gasoline tax rate cuts implemented in 2022, maintaining cuts of 5.7 cents per litre for gasoline and 5.3 cents per litre for other fuels.
- it is keeping electricity costs down for about 100,000 additional families by expanding the eligibility for the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP). Beginning March 1, 2024, the income eligibility thresholds for the OESP were increased by up to 35 per cent to provide thousands of additional low-income families access to the program and make electricity more affordable. Families can apply for the OESP at any time. The OESP provides an on-bill credit of \$35 to \$75 per month, depending on household size, to provide support for low-income households when paying their electricity bills. Higher monthly credits of between \$52 to \$113 are available to customers who are Indigenous, living with Indigenous family members, using electric heating, or using certain electricity-intensive medical devices.

### ***Carbon taxes***

In its 2024 budget, the party states that:

- it is committed to protecting people and businesses from the high costs of a new and unexpected provincial carbon pricing program, by introducing legislation that would require the provincial government to first ask the people of Ontario, via a referendum, before implementing a new provincial carbon pricing program.
- it also continues to call on the federal government to eliminate the federal carbon tax, which has increased inflation and made life less affordable for Ontarians.

### ***Transit and Commuting***

As a part of its proposal to make life affordable for Ontarians, the party's 2025 Budget states that it is working to keep costs down for public transit riders and commuters by:

- implementing the One Fare program, which allows riders to pay only once to transfer between transit systems in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
  - banning any new tolls on new and existing provincial highways, including the Don Valley Parkway and the Gardiner Expressway once uploaded to the province.
  - freezing fees on driver's licences and Ontario Photo Cards, ensuring that any future increases can only be made through legislation.
  - eliminating licence plate renewal fees and stickers in 2022 and eliminating the Drive Clean program for passenger vehicles.
  - moving forward with auto insurance reforms that would empower Ontario drivers with more affordable options, improved access to benefits and create a more modern system, which are planned to be done in a way to help ensure that drivers are able to make informed decisions when choosing insurance coverage options.
- Mandatory auto insurance accident benefit coverage will continue to apply to medical, rehabilitation and attendant care benefits, while all other benefits would become optional.

### **Poverty & Housing**

#### ***Housing***

In its 2024 budget, the party states that:

- building more homes is critical to rebuilding Ontario's economy, and that building homes requires housing-enabling infrastructure.
- to that end, it proposes allocations of \$1 billion to support core infrastructure projects, such as roads and water infrastructure, including quadrupling funding for municipal water projects to total \$825 million through an application-based program; \$1.2 billion over three years to support municipalities that meet or exceed housing targets they have pledged to achieve by 2031; and \$120 million for small, rural, and Northern communities that have not been assigned a housing target, to support their unique needs and circumstances.
- to further alleviate the housing crisis, it proposes to extend authority broadly to all single- and upper-tier municipalities to impose a tax on vacant homes, as is currently authorized in Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton, and continues to strengthen the provincial non-resident speculation tax, including working with other provincial governments and the federal government to increase information sharing to better understand home vacancy, foreign purchasing, and ownership patterns.
- to encourage the construction of more purpose-built rental housing, it has taken steps to enhance a housing rebate from provincial HST to remove the full 8% for qualifying new construction, and increasing the authority of municipalities to offer reduced property tax rates for new multi-residential rental properties.
- to help make homeownership a reality for more Ontario families, it is embracing modular construction and other innovative options to accelerate development, improve affordability, and create jobs, including engaging with the construction sector, municipalities and Indigenous communities on the use of modular construction and other innovative technologies so that more people can live in a home that they can afford.

### **Jobs, Unions, & Employment**

Prior to its current term in office, the party stated that governments do not create jobs on their own, but create conditions that make it easier to start or grow a business, or to invest in the province.

At that time the party advocated:

- instead of corporate welfare, making business taxes competitive by reducing them from 11.5 to 10.5 percent, and lowering small business tax rates by 8.7 percent.
- cancelling the Jobs & Prosperity Fund, which it believes has favored small groups of businesses on an invitation-only basis.
- instead of complex regulations that reward insiders and those who employ lobbyists, cutting red tape to reward entrepreneurship & ideas.
- supporting regional economic development funds for regions like rural and northern Ontario.
- to help fill skilled jobs, increasing access to apprenticeships and reforming the foreign credential recognition process to help qualified immigrants come to Ontario and contribute to the economy to their fullest potential immediately.
- expanding sales of beer and wine through corner stores, grocery stores, and box stores, based on market demand; maintaining LCBO's role in wholesale and distribution.

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:



- it remains committed to investing in workers and key public services, without raising taxes or fees.
- it continues to make it easier for workers to get the skills they need for better jobs and bigger paycheques, while also helping them to plan for a secure retirement, through investments in training to help fill in-demand jobs in key areas like the skilled trades and health care. It has allocated \$100 million in 2024–25 to help workers and job seekers, including apprentices, get the skills they need to advance in their careers. This is in addition to more than \$860 million that has been invested since its launch in 2021. To date, the program has delivered close to 600 training projects to help more than 500,000 workers, including those in the skilled trades and health care.
- it is allocating \$224 million to expand access to brick-and-mortar training centres to help unions, Indigenous centres, and industry associations build new training centres, or upgrade and convert existing facilities into new training centres with state-of-the-art equipment and technology. These investments will prepare people for emerging and in-demand jobs in critical sectors, including construction and health care, among others.
- to help promote apprenticeships in the skilled trades, the government has previously invested more than \$1 billion and now proposes to provide an additional \$16.5 million annually over the next three years for programs that focus on breaking the stigma and attracting more young people into the skilled trades, simplifying the system and encouraging employer participation in apprenticeships.
- in addition, the budget allocates \$21.1 million to expand the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), a specialized high school program that gives students who have completed Grade 10 the chance to explore the trades through cooperative education courses, while completing their Ontario Secondary School Diploma; and \$41.8 million to launch approximately 100 pre-apprenticeship training projects around the province to help young people get firsthand experience working in trades, including a paid work placement with a local employer.

### **Industries, Corporations, and Consumers**

In its 2024 Budget the party states that it has taken significant action to lower costs for businesses to help them compete, grow and weather today's economic uncertainty. Small businesses account for more than 97 per cent of all businesses in the province, helping to drive the economy and create good-paying jobs for workers in growing communities across Ontario.

For 2024 the party proposes allocating an estimated \$8.0 billion in cost savings and support for Ontario businesses, of which \$3.7 billion would go to small businesses, including:

- implementing the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit to help local manufacturers invest and expand, by lowering costs for eligible investments in buildings, machinery or equipment used in manufacturing or processing in the province.
- temporarily cutting the gas tax by 5.7 cents per litre and the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre beginning July 1, 2022, which are proposed to be extended to December 31, 2024, to help reduce the cost of gas and fuel for Ontario businesses.
- supporting cuts to Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) premium rates without reducing benefits, leading to a reduction in payroll costs for businesses.
- increasing the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption from \$490,000 to \$1 million. The EHT exemption increase helps businesses by reducing the tax for eligible private-sector employers on their total Ontario payroll.
- cancelling the cap-and-trade carbon tax to remove its cost impact from items such as gasoline, diesel fuel and natural gas.
- lowering high Business Education Tax (BET) rates, providing \$450 million in annual savings for over 200,000 employers, or 95 per cent of all business properties in Ontario;
- reducing the small business corporate income tax rate to 3.2 per cent and expanding access to this preferential rate, helping small businesses compete and thrive by lowering their costs.
- implementing the Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit to support businesses that make investments and expand in regions of Ontario that have lagged in employment growth.
- allowing businesses to accelerate write-offs of capital investments for income tax purposes, to support businesses that make eligible investments across Ontario.
- implementing the Comprehensive Electricity Plan in January 2021, which is lowering electricity costs by an estimated average of 13 to 16 per cent in 2024 for medium-size and larger industrial and commercial customers, respectively.

In addition, the 2024 budget proposes:

- investing an additional \$6.8 million over two years to enhance the Starter Company Plus program to provide grants of up to \$5000 to eligible entrepreneurs and to support Small Business Enterprise Centres, which provide free consultations with qualified business consultants, internet and computer access for business research and planning, review of business plans, workshops and seminars, and guidance on licenses, permits, regulations, registrations, and other required documents.

### **Banking and Finance**

The party's 2025 Budget states that:

- the provinces credit unions and caisses populaires play an important role in extending financial services to people and businesses in urban and rural communities across the province. Ontario credit unions manage assets of about \$95 billion, employ about 9,000 staff and serve approximately 1.8 million members through almost 550 locations. To support their ability to compete and help ensure broader market stability, it is important to enable direct access to the Bank of Canada's emergency liquidity facilities for Ontario credit unions. It is encouraged by the proposal in the federal 2023 Fall Economic Statement to amend the Canadian Payments Act, which would allow eligible provincially regulated credit unions direct access to the Bank of Canada's Standing Term Liquidity Facility and its Emergency Lending Assistance, and looks forward to ongoing collaboration as changes are being implemented.
- it supports the ongoing work of the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) to modernize the dispute resolution framework available to Ontario investors and remains committed to a modernized capital markets framework that protects investors. The OSC is working to develop rules governing the distribution of disgorged funds to harmed investors, and recently enhanced protections for whistleblowers are intended to encourage individuals to come forward to report misconduct. These measures support enforcement efforts and help increase investor confidence in Ontario's capital markets.

### ***Small Businesses***

Prior to its current term in office, the party advocated:

- cutting hydro rates for small businesses and farmers by 12%.

To support small and medium sized businesses, the party's 2024 budget has committed \$40 million to support advanced manufacturers in the automotive, aerospace, chemical, life sciences and steel sectors.

### ***Innovation***

Prior to its current term in office, the party advocated:

- setting up an emissions-reduction fund to invest in new technologies within the province

### ***Manufacturing***

Prior to its current term in office, the party stated that:

- it launched the \$50 million Ontario Together Fund to help manufacturers retool their operations to produce personal protective equipment (PPE), critical supplies and equipment, and develop technology-driven solutions and services for business to reopen safely

In its 2024 budget the party:

- proposes, in order to strengthen manufacturing and attract investment, to implement a manufacturing tax credit, a 10% refundable corporate income tax credit up to \$2 million per year for eligible investment in buildings, machinery and equipment for use in manufacturing within the province.
- states that it established Invest Ontario in July 2020 to help attract investments from around the world and support businesses to expand their operations within the province. To date, Invest Ontario has helped secure \$2.4 billion in investments which are expected to create 2,600 new jobs, and has other opportunities in the pipeline.
- to continue attracting major investments to Ontario, it proposes allocating an additional \$100 million to the Invest Ontario Fund, building on the \$100 million announced in the 2023 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, and brings the fund total to \$600 million.

### ***Electric Vehicles and Batteries***

The party states that:

- vehicle assembly and automotive parts production industries in Ontario directly support nearly 100,000 workers, as well as hundreds of thousands of indirect jobs throughout the auto supply chain, including over 700 parts firms as well as over 500 tool, die and mould makers.
- in Ontario, manufacturers are making new investments across the emerging electric vehicle (EV) supply chain to help the province become a North American hub for building the cars of the future and create more good-paying jobs. In 2023, Ontario was responsible for shipping 90.8 per cent of Canada's international exports of automobiles and parts, with 96.4 per cent of these going to the United States. It is essential that the federal and Ontario governments work together to protect access to the market in the United States.
- since 2021 the province has attracted more than \$28 billion in automotive and EV battery-related investments from global automakers, parts suppliers, and EV battery and materials manufacturers, which are expected to create more than 12,000 new jobs.

### ***Shipbuilding***

In its 2024 Budget the party states that:

- Ontario's shipbuilding and repair industry supports the movement of people and goods across the province, while promoting safety and security. In 2022, Ontario's shipbuilding and boatbuilding industry contributed over \$50 million to the economy.
- it proposes development of a grant program to help boost the economic competitiveness of the province's shipbuilding industry. It is engaging with the industry on the development of this new program to ensure it remains competitive, creates jobs and helps grow Ontario's economy.

### ***Mining and Resources***

In its 2024 Budget the party states that:

- it is working with Indigenous communities to unlock the economic potential of the province's critical minerals in the North, including in the Ring of Fire, as well as the forestry industry, supporting Indigenous, Northern and rural communities while ensuring that forests are managed sustainably.
- to support development in the Ring of Fire, it has allocated \$1 billion to support critical infrastructure such as all-season roads, broadband connectivity and community supports, and will continue to support the Marten Falls, Webequie, and Northern Link road projects.
- it 2022 it launched a \$5 million Critical Minerals Innovation Fund to support innovation and research to increase exploration, mining, development, production and processing in Ontario; and proposes investing an additional \$15 million over three years from 2024-27.
- it created a \$19.6 million Forest Biomass Program in May 2023 to develop benefits of new and underutilized wood and mill by-products. It now proposes to add \$20 million per year through 2030.

### ***Electrical Power Generation***

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:

- the province may need to double electricity capacity by 2050. To meet that demand while keeping costs down, its plan includes investment in the future of nuclear power and new zero-emissions electricity generation, storage and transmission lines.
- refurbishment of the Pickering, Darlington, and Bruce nuclear plants, will include gathering of funds through bond sales.
- Ontario Power Generation and other Ontario nuclear providers have signed major agreements valued at approximately \$1 billion to export nuclear products and services to other countries, including Poland, Estonia and the Czech Republic.
- a \$15 million Hydrogen Innovation Fund is being applied to 15 new projects that will help integrate hydrogen into the province's electricity grid.
- Northern electricity transmission has been expanded by completion of the Est-West Tie project from Wawa to Thunder Bay in March 2022, and the anticipated completion of the Wataynikaneyap project to connect 16 remote first nations communities and transition then away from diesel electricity generation.

### ***Advanced Computing***

In its 2024 budget, the party states that:

- Ontario's advanced research computing (ARC) facilities help ensure researchers have the resources they need to make new discoveries and commercialize innovations. It has allocated an additional \$18 million over the next three years to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of Ontario's ARC systems located across the province. In addition, it proposes investing \$47.4 million for the infrastructure refresh of aging ARC systems at the University of Toronto (the Niagara Supercomputer) and University of Waterloo (the Graham Supercomputer).
- it further proposes to invest an additional \$1 million per year starting in 2024-25 in Ontario's Regional Innovation Centres (RICs). With this funding, the government will launch a new RIC in Barrie to further expand the regional benefits of innovation and economic growth.

### ***Banking and Finance***

In its 2024 budget, the party states that:

- to support equitable access to capital markets, it actively supports the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) in engaging Indigenous partners to identify opportunities for increased participation of Indigenous businesses and communities in capital markets.
- it continues to work with the OSC to establish a Long-Term Asset Fund (LTAF) framework to enhance both institutional and retail investor access to investment opportunities in capital-intensive assets such as infrastructure, natural resource projects, and other relatively less liquid assets.

### ***Infrastructure***

Prior to its current term in office, the party advocated:

- investing in expanded broadband internet access; and increasing local infrastructure funding.
- implementing two-way, all-day GO service, including expansions to Bowmanville, Kitchener and completing the Niagara GO Expansion, and supporting regional transit projects in places such as Ottawa, Hamilton, Mississauga/Brampton, Kitchener-Waterloo and London.
- transferring responsibility for subway infrastructure, including the building and maintenance of new and existing subway lines, from the City of Toronto to the Province; and adding \$5 billion in new subway funding to the \$9 billion already available to build the Sheppard Loop with Scarborough, the Relief Line, and the Yonge Extension while building future crosstown expansions underground; retaining municipal responsibility for day-to-day TTC operations, including labour relations, with the City of Toronto along with a guarantee that the City will continue to keep all revenue generated by the subway system.
- actively exploring potential for high-speed rail and highway projects including the potential six-laning of Highway 401 to the 416 between Toronto and Ottawa
- completing the environmental assessment for the GTA West Corridor, investing in increased safety on the 401 West and four-lane Highway 17 in eastern Ontario and Highway 3 in Southwestern Ontario.
- expanding natural gas distribution to rural communities by enabling private sector participation and use the up to \$100 million in savings to invest in cellular and broadband expansion.

In its 2024 budget, the party proposes allocations of more than \$190.2 billion over 10 years for highways, transit, broadband, housing-enabling and other infrastructure, including an initial \$3 billion to its new Building Ontario Fund, to support building of critical infrastructure projects in priority areas across the province, including long-term care homes, energy infrastructure, affordable housing, and transportation; and that the fund is also exploring opportunities to support large-scale projects in the postsecondary student housing, long-term care, energy generation, and municipal infrastructure sectors.

The party further states that the \$190.2 billion allocation includes:

- doubling its annual investment to nearly \$2 billion over five years to fund asset management for 425 small, rural, and Northern communities, to help build and repair infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure.
- nearly \$4 billion to provide access to high-speed internet to every community across the province by the end of 2025. As of March 2024, more than 88,000 previously underserved premises now have access to high-speed internet. It has provided an interactive map that provides information on the status of high-speed internet projects in Ontario.
- new and improved highways and interchanges across the province, including the Banwell Road & E.C. Row Expressway interchange in Windsor, Highway 416 at Barnsdale Road in Ottawa, expansion of Highway 7 in York-Durham region and from Kitchener to Guelph, Highway 401 and Lauzon Parkway in Windsor, building Highway 413, the Bradford Bypass, and a number of highways in Northern Ontario.
- transit projects to support the provincial economy, alleviate gridlock, and connect people to jobs and housing, including:
  - \* expansion of service on the Milton, Kitchener, Bowmanville, Niagara, Bloor, Bramalea, Aurora, and Stouffville lines;
  - \* the Ontario, Scarborough, Yonge North, and Eglinton Crosstown West subway extensions;
  - \* The Finch West, Eglinton Crosstown, Sheppard East, Hazel McCallion, and Hamilton Light Rail projects.

## Points to Ponder: An Economy to Serve People

A conscience well formed by the social teachings of the Church will seriously consider the following questions:

### Poverty Reduction

1. “The poor you will always have with you,” Christ warned his disciples. Why would Christ say that? Is it possible that the poor will always be with us in order that we, who now form the living body of Christ on earth, will always have an opportunity to glorify God by examining the meaning and the causes of poverty, and working to eliminating it, without expecting that we will ever, on our own and without the assistance of God, be able to do that?
2. How can Ontario and Canada best strike a balance between the principles of solidarity – ‘we’re all in this together’ – and subsidiarity – ‘everyone should do what he or she can to support themselves, before burdening others?’
3. What is an appropriate definition of poverty, particularly in a society overflowing with consumer objects and tokens of material wealth?
4. Should such definition include as a condition the ability of individuals to seek personal fulfillment in the pursuit of truth? In other words, the ability to enjoy and make use of leisure?
5. What, if anything, should be done to ensure that a dignified living wage, capable of providing a dignified home and opportunity to support a family, is available to workers and those willing to work?
6. Should a basic income policy be considered? If so, what form should it take?
7. What can or should be done by the provinces, and what should be left to the federal government, or to private or community organizations?
8. It has been observed that debt levels among the elderly are increasing, especially as the costs of long-term, dignified care increase. What can or should be done to alleviate poverty and debt among the elderly?

### GDP & Well-Being

For decades, governments have focused exclusively on gross domestic product – a measure of an economy’s sheer productivity – as the best measure of national social health. More recently, some voices have begun to advocate for a broader index of national well-being, to include factors such as the physical and emotional health of the people, the health of the environment, equity in housing, income, and opportunity, and food security, in addition to raw production.

1. Which of these measures of national well-being is more amenable to the promotion of Catholic values?
2. What else can or should be done to ensure that Ontario’s economy serves everyone—rather than the other way around? Should spiritual well-being be considered? If so, how could it be assessed?

3. Is it reasonable to demand continuous economic growth, as business schools have taught for decades, or might it be preferable to seek sustainable contentment?

### Businesses and Corporations

For decades, corporate lobby groups and business schools have taught that the only legitimate object of a business corporation is to make money for its shareholders. More recently, some business voices have begun to call for a broader role for corporations, one that includes service of its employees, its customers, and the community, and protection of the environment.

1. Which approach is more consistent with Catholic social teaching?
2. Should anything be done to encourage development of a corporate and business culture that aims to serve people, communities, and future generations, in addition to fair profits? If so, what, and by whom?

# The Individual & Society: Rights, Responsibilities, & Subsidiarity

Civil Liberties | Human Rights | Responsibilities: Participation & Subsidiarity

***To one person's right there corresponds a duty in all other persons... Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)***

## Catholic Teaching

### Civil Rights & Liberties

Every member of society is imbued with a number of rights. **With them come responsibilities.**

In Catholic terms, a “right” has been defined as a subjective moral power, residing in the person posing it, “to do, hold, or extract something,” which functions through appeal to another’s will through the other’s intellect. It is to be distinguished from might, i.e. the physical force or power to take something away from another. – Fr John Hardon, SJ, *Modern Catholic Dictionary*

Man’s history of sin begins when he no longer acknowledges the Lord as his Creator and himself wishes to be the one who determines, with complete independence, what is good and what is evil. "You will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen 3:5): this was the first temptation, and it is echoed in all the other temptations to which man is more easily inclined to yield as a result of the original Fall. - Pope Saint John Paul II, *Veritatis splendor*

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. These demands concern above all the commitment to peace, the organization of the State’s powers, a sound juridical system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care, the freedom of communication and expression, and the protection of religious freedom. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 164-166*

### Racism & Discrimination

The unity of the human family is not yet becoming a reality. This is due to obstacles originating in materialistic and nationalistic ideologies that contradict the values of the person integrally considered in all his various dimensions, material and spiritual, individual and community. In particular, any theory or form whatsoever of racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable. - 433, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### Conscience & Religion

The Catholic Church emphasizes, among other rights, the right to religious freedom. Emphasis is given to the paramount value of the right to religious freedom: “all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits”. The respect of this right is an indicative sign of “man’s authentic progress in any regime, in any society, system or milieu.” -320, 321 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*



### Civil Rights & Liberties

The party states that:

- although the province has made tremendous strides, there is still work to be done to make Ontario a place where everyone belongs. Still today, racialized communities, women, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and people with disabilities face disproportionately more barriers in accessing quality health care, economic opportunities, and within the justice system.
- inequity has many faces. It comes in the form of unconscious bias and overt racism, gender based gaps in pay and opportunity, and neglect of those that must deal with physical and neurodiverse challenges.
- it is committed to building a more accessible and equitable Ontario.

### Gender Equity

To prioritize gender equity, the party advocates:

- working with the federal government to ensure continued funding for universal access to high-quality, \$10-a-day childcare in all communities, so women have more opportunity to re-enter the workforce.
- providing Early Childcare Educators, more than 95% of whom are women, with a fair wage of at least \$25 per hour.
- immediately revoking Bill 124 to allow healthcare workers, including nurses (91% of whom are women), to negotiate fairly for the wage increases they deserve, and implementing the Pay Transparency Act.
- requiring that public corporations’ boards and executive level positions have an adequate proportion of women represented, with a goal to achieve gender parity.
- applying a gender-based analysis to all government legislation and programming to advise on how gender equity can be better achieved.
- supporting survivors of gender-based violence by increasing funding for Sexual Assault Centres, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and legal supports.

### Racism

To eradicate systemic racism, the party advocates:

- fully funding the Anti-Racism Directorate, reversing the recent cuts.
- requiring anti-racism and anti-oppression training for all public sector employees and legislators, and requiring the Ontario Public Service to commit to eliminate racism and discrimination, conduct random external audits, data collection and reporting, and establish a safe harassment and discrimination reporting system for staff.
- passing the Our London Family Act to change the way we address Islamophobia in Ontario.
- ensuring Indigenous communities are served by Indigenous-led child welfare providers to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in provincial care.
- addressing the overrepresentation of Black children in provincial care by the development of frameworks to provide culturally appropriate services to Black children, youth and families, and identifying and addressing existing standards and structures that continue to harm Black families.
- providing annual reports on the number and proportion of Black and Indigenous children who are in care, and establishing an independent office to investigate claims of unfair treatment by case workers called in to assess a child’s circumstances.

### 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities

To support 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, the party advocates:



With euthanasia and medically-assisted death and abortion legalized, it is critical that healthcare providers whose deepest moral convictions tell them that such procedures are wrong, not be forced to participate. Catholic teaching says workers should be safeguarded from suffering any affront to conscience or personal dignity.

It is a grave duty of conscience to avoid cooperating, even formally, with practices contrary to the Law of God.

### ***Freedom of Speech: truth, the press & the media***

Information is among the principal instruments of democratic participation. Participation without an understanding of the situation of the political community, the facts and the proposed solutions to problems is unthinkable.

It is necessary to guarantee a real pluralism in the dissemination of information, ensuring that there are many forms and instruments of information and communications. Special attention must be given to the phenomenon of the news media being controlled by just a few people or groups. This has dangerous effects for the entire democratic system... The media must be used to build up and sustain the human community in its different sectors: economic, political, cultural, educational and religious. Society has a right to information based on truth, freedom, justice and solidarity. The essential question is whether the current information system is contributing to the betterment of the human person; that is, does it make people more spiritually mature, more aware of the dignity of their humanity, more responsible or more open to others, in particular to the neediest and the weakest.

A further aspect of great importance is that new technologies must respect legitimate cultural differences. In the world of the media the intrinsic difficulties of communications are often exacerbated by ideology, the desire for profit and political control, rivalry and conflicts between groups, and other social evils. Moral values and principles apply also to the media.... 414-416, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### ***Gender Equity***

The feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society. The first indispensable step in this direction is the concrete possibility of access to professional formation. The persistence of many forms of discrimination offensive to the dignity and vocation of women is due to a long series of conditioning that penalizes women, who have seen themselves relegated to the margins of society and even reduced to servitude... An urgent need to recognize effectively the rights of women in the workplace is seen especially under the aspects of pay, insurance and social security. –295, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### ***Property***

Private property and other forms of private control of goods “assure a person a highly necessary sphere for the exercise of his personal and family autonomy and ought to be considered as an extension of human freedom ... stimulating exercise of responsibility, it constitutes one of the conditions for civil liberty.” –171, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Church’s social doctrine requires that ownership of goods be equally accessible to all, so that all may become, at least in some measure, owners. The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity. Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and

- creating a comprehensive strategy to ensure equitable, inclusive and affirming access to care and treatment for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities within our healthcare system and long-term care.
- expanding and improving to provincially funded healthcare services for 2SLGBTQIA+ Ontarians, including gender affirming procedures and transition medications.
- dedicating resources and funding to directly support 2SLGBTQIA+ youth groups.
- mandating standards to have safe, accessible, all-gender washrooms in all public spaces in Ontario.

### ***Services and languages***

To ensure equitable access to speakers of all languages, the party advocates:

- ensuring that interpreters, translators, or multilingual written materials are available in publicly funded services, and improving access to them.
- ensuring that all government announcements are signed in both ASL and LSQ.
- providing tools for nonprofits to have French language resources.
- creating incentives to increase the number of French-speaking individuals in teachers college programs.

### ***Environmental rights***

**The party advocates:**

- **standing strong for environmental justice** by strengthening and upholding the Environmental Bill of Rights, including requiring the Ministry of Environment to develop and report on a strategy to address environmental racism; establishing more strict monitoring and enforcement standards for air and water pollution in areas where communities are exposed to potential health risks from multiple industries

- **strengthening environmental oversight and public consultation**, including restoring the Office of the Environmental Commissioner; establishing and enforce industry sector standards for air and water pollution that protect health; restoring a robust environmental assessment process and reverse changes that allow for assessments to be “streamlined;” rapidly repeal of all recent changes that limited Conservation Authorities’ authority, and provision of stable funding mechanisms so Conservation Authorities can fulfil their mandates, including watershed level protections; and reversing changes in Bill 245 that merged all land use planning tribunals, including the Environmental Review Board, into the Ontario Land Tribunal, and reverse damaging changes to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT); and upholding the duty to obtain free, prior and informed consent from First Nations and Métis communities regarding decisions that may affect them.



### **Civil Rights & Liberties**

As part of its plan for promoting public health care, the party advocates:

- working with experts, health care providers, patients and communities to ensure access to gender affirming care and breaking down barriers to accessing health care for all 2SLGBTQ+ Ontarians.



### **Civil Rights & Liberties**

#### ***Racial and Religious discrimination***

To fight racism and hate in Ontario, the party advocates:

so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development. -176, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Not to share our wealth with the poor is to rob them and take away their livelihood. The riches we possess are not our own, but theirs as well... Other rights having to do with the goods necessary for the integral fulfilment of persons, including that of private property or any other type of property, should in no way hinder [this right], but should actively facilitate its implementation. *Fratelli tutti*, -188-120

### Human Rights

The Church also recognizes a number of Human Rights, including:

- the right to life, an integral part of which is the right of the child to develop in the mother's womb from the moment of conception
- the right to live in a united family and in a moral environment conducive to the growth of the child's personality
- the right to develop one's intelligence and freedom in seeking and knowing the truth
- the right to share in the work which makes wise use of the earth's material resources, and to derive from that work the means to support oneself and one's dependents
- and the right freely to establish a family, to have and to rear children through the responsible exercise of one's sexuality.

The Church also emphasizes rights to adequate housing; clean water, and secure, nutritious food; education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care.  
– 151-166 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### Individual Responsibilities

"In human society to one man's right there corresponds a duty in all other persons: the duty, namely, of acknowledging and respecting the right in question." "Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other. -156 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### Subsidiarity

Subsidiarity is the principle that each element of society should serve its proper purpose, and support others in serving theirs, the over-arching goal being to encourage and enable the authentic human development of the individual.

One consequence of this principle is that each individual, and smaller groups of people, should be allowed and expected to make for themselves all the decisions that can responsibly be left to them, rather than to larger groups or greater authorities. A premise of this principle is that we are each responsible for our own salvation, within the limits of the gifts and the challenges with which God has endowed us. This is one of the fundamental social teachings of the Church, since it helps to ensure that each individual is empowered to find his or her own way to God.

### Families, Individuals, and Civil Society

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, local territorial realities; in short, for that aggregate of economic, social, cultural, sports-

- re-establishment of the Anti-Racism Secretariat to support communities to stamp out hate, the Secretariat to coordinate collection across government to ensure programs and services meet the province's equity goals.
- creation of 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.

### Civic Equity

The party has published no current statement regarding its policies concerning civic equity.

Prior to the last election, the party advocated:

To remove barriers to the services and programs people need, and foster safety and inclusiveness in provincial institutions and public spaces so that every can live with pride at every age and stage of their life, the party advocates:

- launching a 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion Action Plan to ensure that government services like health care, education, and long-term care are inclusive of and welcoming to 2SLGBTQIA+ Ontarians, including consulting broadly following the 'nothing about us, without us' approach.
- ensuring that diverse health care professionals from 2SLGBTQIA+ communities working in primary care are recruited and properly compensated.
- ensuring that all necessary medicines, are accessible to everyone who needs them, including all transition drugs and medication and those required to treat and prevent HIV.
- expanding shelter spaces for queer and trans youth and adults.
- supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ -owned businesses through diverse vendor strategies.

To eliminate inequities for women and ensure women have access to the same opportunities as men, the party advocates:

- applying a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) system to ensure that all government programs, policies, and legislation are inclusive of all Ontarians.
- updating and enforcing the Pay Equity Act to address the gender wage gap and bring greater equity to corporate boards.
- repealing Bill 124, which suppresses wages in women-dominated caring sectors, and ending court fights against midwives.
- making contraception free, so that cost is not a barrier to individuals' ability to make choices about their reproductive health.
- fighting gender-based violence and properly funding women's shelter, including setting aside a portion of the 100,000 units of affordable housing it has proposed for women and their families escaping violence, and implementing the recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee.
- increasing funding to Ontario's sexual assault and rape crisis centres by 30 per cent.
- funding 10 days of paid leave for women escaping violence, with access to additional leave as needed without repercussions at work
- providing additional funding and supports for more beds and staff to treat eating disorders, in response to the increase in eating disorders seen during the pandemic.



**As of 23 February 2025, four days prior to the election it called, the party has published no comprehensive update or statement of its proposed policies.**

The party states that as matters of principle it believes:

- that government should serve the people and that progress requires a competitive economy, which, accepting its social responsibilities, allows every individual freedom of opportunity and initiative and the peaceful enjoyment of the fruits of his or her own labour
- in freedoms of speech, worship and assembly, in loyalty to Canada and the Monarch of Canada and the in the rule of law

oriented, recreational, professional and political expressions to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth. This is the realm of civil society... This network of relationships strengthens the social fabric and constitutes the basis of a true community of persons, making possible the recognition of higher forms of social activity.

The political community is established to be of service to civil society, from which it originates... This vision is challenged by political ideologies of an individualistic nature and those of a totalitarian character, which tend to absorb civil society into the sphere of the State. The political community and civil society are not equal in the hierarchy of ends. The political community is essentially at the service of civil society and, in the final analysis, the persons and groups of which civil society is composed.

The State must provide an adequate legal framework for social subjects to engage freely in their different activities and it must be ready to intervene, when necessary and with respect for the principle of subsidiarity, so that the interplay between free associations and democratic life may be directed to the common good. -185, 417, 418 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

#### ***Subsidiary governments: provinces, municipalities, territories, & Aboriginals***

The principle of subsidiarity is opposed to various forms of centralization, bureaucratization, and welfare assistance, and to the unjustified and excessive presence of the State in public mechanisms... Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do. -185, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

- in the ethical and accountable execution of the business of government.
- that social justice entails equality of opportunity, including fair and equal treatment for all Ontarians and the provision of support to those in need.

#### **Civil Rights & Liberties**

Prior to its current term in government the party stated that:

- to address systemic racism, it was making additional investments in key communities, including \$1.6 million over two years to support the Anti-Racism and Anti-Hate Grant program, which will support community based anti-racism initiatives focusing on anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and builds on a \$60 million investment in the Black Youth Action Plan

At that time the party advocated:

- building a culture of respect with zero tolerance for those who abuse positions of authority

#### **Housing**

Prior to its current term in office, the party advocated:

- preserving rent control for existing tenants across the province
- increasing the supply of affordable housing across the GTA while protecting the Greenbelt in its entirety

#### **In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:**

- its Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act, 2024 would require colleges and universities to have mental health policies in place that should include clear and transparent information about programs and supports available to students, along with policies to address racism and hate, including but not limited to antisemitism and Islamophobia.

#### **The party has published no further official statement concerning its positions on:**

- civic duties or responsibilities of individuals
- communities or civil society

## **Points to Ponder: Rights & Responsibilities; Subsidiarity**

A conscience well formed by the social teachings of the Church will seriously consider the following questions:

#### **Civic & Individual Rights & Responsibilities**

It is clear that the nation and the provinces owe their citizens great respect for each of a broad range of human rights. But with rights come responsibilities. In fact, a right is nothing other than the flip side of an obligation (responsibility). And while individual citizens have rights, the civil community as a whole also has rights, which means that individual citizens have some fundamental obligations towards the civil community as a whole (the nation).

In that light, we can ask:

1. What responsibilities do individuals have toward their communities, provinces, the nation, and the world? For example:
  - a) To what extent are citizens called to live sustainable lifestyles, for example by conserving energy, avoiding waste, and ensuring that they minimize any adverse impact on future generations?
  - b) What should citizens look to their governments for, to encourage sustainable consumer lifestyles and ensure that such lifestyles are affordable?
  - c) To what extent are citizens called to:
    - i) participate in society, for example through informed voting, continued engagement with candidates and elected representatives, and keeping up responsibly with the news?
    - ii) lend a hand to their neighbours, for example by volunteering at home or within the community, in addition to paying taxes?
2. Can our governments do anything to enable or encourage citizens to contribute by volunteer service? For example, by offering tax credits to volunteer firefighters, to those who work with the homeless or visit the sick, or to other civic volunteers?
3. Under what conditions, if any, is it morally right to require health care providers to participate in morally questionable practices such as abortion or assisted death, when it is contrary to their understanding of morality or their religious beliefs?

In addition to human and civil rights, many parties speak of things residents of Ontario and others “deserve.”

- a) How do the parties determine what citizens do or do not deserve? Do they apply predictable, objective criteria in making such determinations, or can such determinations sometimes seem arbitrary and unfair, or, in the context of elections, opportunistic? What criteria should be applied?
- b) As the list of our defined political rights expand, how do we reconcile conflicts between them?

#### Inter-Government Relations & and Civil Society

1. Should the powers of the Federal government be expanded or reduced?
2. Should the powers of the Provincial government be expanded or reduced?
3. Is there too much government intervention in Canada or too little? Are Federal and Provincial governments fulfilling their obligations under the principle of subsidiarity to local governments and community groups by leaving to them all the decisions that responsibly can be left with them?
4. Or, should the powers of government be redistributed in order to ensure that individuals, public interest groups, and service organizations have opportunities to employ their lives and talents in the service of others, and the common good?

# Solidarity

With the Marginalized | Indigenous Peoples | Rural Communities | Immigration & Newcomers

***The other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)***

Solidarity is found in a commitment to the good of one's neighbour. **The good of one is the good of all**, and the other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone. – 193, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Support for the Marginalized and the Vulnerable

Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal. Pope Francis – *Fratelli tutti*, 109

So many needy brothers and sisters are waiting for help, so many who are oppressed are waiting for justice, so many who are unemployed are waiting for a job, so many peoples are waiting for respect. How can it be that even today there are still people dying of hunger? Condemned to illiteracy? Lacking the most basic medical care? Without a roof over their head? The scenario of poverty can extend indefinitely, if in addition to its traditional forms we think of its newer patterns. These new patterns often affect financially affluent sectors and groups which are nevertheless threatened by despair at the lack of meaning in their lives, by drug addiction, by fear of abandonment in old age or sickness, by marginalization or social discrimination... – 5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

## Disabilities, Mental Health & Addictions

Persons with disabilities are fully human subjects, with rights and duties: “in spite of the limitations and sufferings affecting their bodies and faculties, they point up more clearly the dignity and greatness of man.” Persons with disabilities are to be helped to participate in every dimension of family and social life at every level accessible to them and according to their possibilities... They too need to love and to be loved, they need tenderness, closeness and intimacy according to their capacities. – 148, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of*



## Support for the Marginalized

### Disabilities and Complex Care

As a matter of priority within its platform, the party advocates:

- repeal of Bill 124, paying PSWs, nurses and ECEs a fair wage and hiring 33,000 nurses.
- doubling the rates for Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

The party advocates:

- **expanding care options for people with complex needs**, by defining standards of care for common and complex mental health and addiction services to be used across the province, including conducting a needs assessment for acute and community-based mental health and addiction services by region, and make investments in acute care beds as needed; expanding specialist community mental health services and acute care capacity for people with eating disorders; recognizing suicide as a public health priority and invest in evidence-based prevention strategies that support the individual needs of people, including Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

- **improving the quality of lives of people living with disabilities** by doubling Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates as a first step to implementing a Basic Income, and tying future increases to inflation; evaluating and improving the Assistive Devices Program to better meet the needs of those requiring assistive tools, including more up-to-date devices, training, and fewer barriers to access; ensuring that new affordable housing stock is accessible, and requiring affordable housing retrofits to meet the same standard; reviewing all Ontario laws for accessibility barriers and ensure that all future funding and policy choices are made through an accessibility lens; and updating, improving, and implementing the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act as quickly as possible

- **ensuring that the province's communities are both vibrant and accessible** by prioritizing implementation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), namely implementing as much of the AODA as possible; strengthening Accessibility Standards under the AODA to ensure the standards meet the needs of people with disabilities; enacting comprehensive Education and Health Care Accessibility Standards and strengthening the Employment and Transportation Accessibility Standards under the AODA; revamping the Information and Communications standards to keep up with rapidly changing technology; reviewing and revising the Design of Public Spaces standards; and substantially strengthening AODA enforcement.

- **building accessible homes and businesses**, including developing new comprehensive Built Environment accessibility standards by revising the building code for new construction and major renovations; ensuring that new affordable housing stock is accessible, and requiring all affordable housing retrofits to meet the same standards; creating incentives for retrofitting homes and buildings that make them accessible; ensuring that design professionals are provided adequate training in accessibility awareness and inclusive design; substantially improving the accessibility of the Ontario Public Service's workplaces, services and facilities; and providing clear, in-depth guidelines and delivering more responsive, comprehensive support for AODA implementation to organisations through free, independent technical advice.

## Mental Health & Addictions

As a priority within its platform, the party advocates:

- increasing Increase mental health spending to 10% of our health budget to include mental health care under OHIP.
- increasing funding for children's mental health to reduce wait times to less than 30 days.
- decriminalizing drug use to improve lives, lower costs and treat mental health as a public health issue.
- adding 60,000 permanent supportive housing spaces with wrap-around services, and dedicating 10% of those homes to people with complex care needs.
- increasing the number of consumption and treatment sites throughout the province and expanding the availability of harm reduction programs, including safe supply.



## Indigenous Peoples & Reconciliation

The relationship of Indigenous peoples to their lands and resources deserves particular attention, since it is a fundamental expression of their identity. These peoples offer an example of a life lived in harmony with the environment that they have come to know well and to preserve. Their extraordinary experience, which is an irreplaceable resource for all humanity, runs the risk of being lost together with the environment from which they originate. – 471, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Canadian Catholic Church supports the work of the Truth and Reconciliation commission. We are called to support thriving Indigenous communities in Canada, rooted in their unique cultures and traditions.

## Northern & Rural Communities

Looking after the common good means making use of the new opportunities for the redistribution of wealth to the benefit of the underprivileged that until now have been excluded or cast to the sidelines of social and economic progress. Too often, social services and infrastructure development suffer from neglect in rural areas. – 299, 300, 363, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Agricultural labour merits special attention... considering the many problems that need to be met in the context of an ever more globalized economy as well as its growing significance in safeguarding the natural environment. Radical and urgent changes are therefore needed in order to restore to agriculture — and to rural people — their just value as the basis for a healthy economy... – 363, 299 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

## Immigrants & Newcomers

Ideally, unnecessary migration ought to be avoided; this entails creating in countries of origin the conditions needed for a dignified life and integral development. Yet until substantial progress is made in achieving this goal, we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs and those of their families, and where they can find personal fulfilment. Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. – Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, 129

In the modern world, where there are still grave inequalities between rich countries and poor countries, and where

- integrating paid peer support workers with lived experience into the planning and organisation of all substance use programming, and creating a significant role for people with lived experience as part of the Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence.
- declaring the opioid crisis a public health emergency to free up funds and provide focused, coordinated government leadership to combat the crisis, including expanding the distribution of naloxone kits and rebooting the Ontario Emergency Opioid Task Force to address the urgency and complexity of the drug poisoning crisis.

## Equitable Health Care

To promote better equity in the healthcare system, the party advocates:

- striking a task force to develop policies and initiatives that address the adverse effects of racism, homophobia, and transphobia on peoples' mental health and the barriers they face to accessing healthcare.
- cultural responsiveness training for all healthcare professionals, including training is trauma-informed and rooted in equity and anti-racism.
- increased core funding for community-based, grassroots mental and physical health supports in racialized, newcomer, and other communities that have traditionally been underserved.
- improving the availability of supports and services in other languages, including French and Indigenous languages, and encouraging service providers and programs to reflect the experiences and perspectives of the populations they serve.
- mandating and funding for the collection and meaningful use of socio-demographic and race-based data to identify and correct inequities in provided care and health outcomes.
- expanding the number of and fully funding women's health clinics and abortion clinics in Ontario.

## Northern and Rural Communities

The party advocates:

- rebalancing the healthcare funding formula to ensure better access in rural and remote areas, investment to increase the number of Indigenous-led health clinics.
- expanding the roles and scope of nurse practitioners as primary health care providers, especially in areas that lack primary care options, using incentives to bring physicians and allied health professionals to Northern and rural communities, and creating opportunities for specialist and subspecialist trainees to undertake electives and core rotations in the North.

## Indigenous Peoples

As a matter of priority within its platform, the party advocates:

- implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and acting on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- rebalancing the healthcare funding formula to ensure better access in rural and remote areas, investment to increase the number of Indigenous-led health clinics.

The party further states that:

- a key step in acknowledging the role of traditional knowledge and systems in Indigenous life and reconciliation is to implement UNDRIP.
- it advocates acknowledgement of the reality of Indigenous people in Ontario, including the understanding that centuries of colonialism and broken promises have made building trust difficult.
- it wants the province to come to the table with funding for Indigenous-led initiatives in climate leadership, healthcare and housing.

To such ends the party advocates establishing true nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous peoples, including:

- recognition of First Nations' right to self-determination and establishment of a co-management stewardship model for the development of provincial resources with fair revenue sharing.
- recognizing and integrating Indigenous laws and legal traditions in the negotiation and implementation processes involving treaties, land claims, and other constructive agreements, and supporting Indigenous land defenders in asserting their treaty rights and actions taken to confront threats to their traditional lands.
- to address the legacy of colonialism and residential schools, working with the federal government to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; making the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a statutory holiday; and working with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify, collect, and providing copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system in Ontario.
- restoration of funding for the Indigenous curriculum program and working with Indigenous educators and community leaders to develop a mandatory curriculum on colonialism and residential schools, treaties, and Indigenous histories and experiences.
- reform of child welfare and protection services to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in provincial care by ensuring Indigenous communities are served by Indigenous-led providers, and producing annual reports on the number and proportion of Indigenous children who are in care.
- working with the federal government and Indigenous communities to identify and close the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous



advances in communications quickly reduce distances, the immigration of people looking for a better life is on the increase. These people come from less privileged areas of the earth and their arrival in developed countries is often perceived as a threat to the high levels of well-being achieved thanks to decades of economic growth. In most cases, however, immigrants fill a labour need which would otherwise remain unfilled... Institutions in host countries must keep careful watch to prevent the spread of the temptation to exploit foreign labourers, denying them the same rights enjoyed by nationals, rights that are to be guaranteed to all without discrimination. – 297, 298, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

We are called to welcome immigrants and refugees with generosity and good will, as if they were Jesus Christ himself. *Matthew, Chapter 25*

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” 23 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, citing Lev. 19:33-34

Communities, including increasing the number of Indigenous professionals working in healthcare through training and mentorship opportunities and ensuring their retention in Indigenous communities, particularly in northern and remote communities; increasing the number of Indigenous-led health centres, youth programs crisis support teams, and supporting suicide-prevention training.

- providing properly funded Indigenous-led supports for survivors of residential school trauma.
- publishing annual progress reports and assess long-term trends and indicators in areas such as suicide, mental health, chronic diseases, and availability of appropriate health services to ensure equity in access to care.

#### Indigenous Housing and Environmental Clean-up

The party advocates:

- funding an Indigenous-led housing strategy, including 22,000 Indigenous-owned and operated permanent homes under an Urban and Rural Indigenous Housing Strategy led by Indigenous communities to create homes for Indigenous peoples living in Ontario.
- supporting community rights to a healthy environment, including working with the federal government to immediately end all boil water advisories; working to repair the damage at Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemoong; pursuing government commitments to clean up mercury contamination and ensure free, informed and prior consent for Grassy Narrows, Wabaseemoong communities, and all other Indigenous communities for future industrial decisions; providing evidence-based assessments in line with the recommendations from the Mercury Disability Board Expert Panel to ensure fair compensation is received by those who qualify; restoring provincial funding for source water protection and expanding drinking water source protection to Northern, remote and Indigenous communities.
- providing adequate funding and training opportunities for a First Nations Water Authority to own and operate their own water and wastewater utilities to work toward finally ending boil water advisories.
- recognizing and providing \$1B in funding for Indigenous-protected and conserved areas, in which Indigenous governments play the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems.



#### Support for the Marginalized

The party's 2025 platform is prefaced by statements that that:

- growing the provincial economy starts with investing in workers, communities and healthcare, not just the rich.
- it proposes investment in needed roads, hospitals and schools, reducing gridlock, and supporting economic growth and diversification.

Specifically, the party advocates:

- guaranteeing everyone a family doctor in four years, ensuring that mental healthcare is covered under OHIP, and supporting seniors to age with dignity.
- slashing taxes, saving taxpayers thousands annually by permanently cutting income tax for workers and eliminating sales tax (HST) on home heating and hydro bills.
- building more affordable homes by eliminating development charges, restoring the dream of homeownership, and bringing fairness back to the rental market.
- permanently doubling ODSP so Ontario's most vulnerable are not left behind.
- clearing the school repair backlog, improving safety at school, and providing education that prepares Ontario for the future.
- accelerating the process to integrate at least 1,200 qualified and experienced internationally trained doctors over the next four years through Practice Ready Ontario.

#### Indigenous Peoples

Prior to the previous election, the party stated that to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, it advocated:

- implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action by working with and learning from Indigenous peoples. This includes increasing support for the option to learn First Nations languages and mandating the inclusion of the painful history of Canada's residential schools across the K-12 curriculum. We'll also invest in Indigenous-led mental health supports, child care, housing and infrastructure projects.

**The party has published no further current statement regarding its policies relating to:**

- rural communities.
- immigration & newcomers.



#### **Care for the Disabled**

To fight against the rising cost of living, the party advocates:

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

#### **Indigenous Peoples**

The party advocates:

- government-to-government relationships with First Nations, ensuring that any policies impacting First Nations will be guided by the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), as a matter of law, across government.
- formalizing the province's commitment to a tripartite consultation process between First Nations rights holders, the provincial government, and resource industries on any proposed plan impacting First Nations territories.
- ensuring, through resource revenue agreements that revenues are equitably shared and flow to First Nations, including 100% of mining tax revenues.
- support for First Nations knowledge keepers, Indigenous language programs and land-based educational initiatives, that will ensure that they are able to thrive.
- working to fulfill Ontario's obligations to the outstanding Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, and making Truth and Reconciliation Day a statutory provincial holiday.

#### **Northern & Rural Communities**

To address needs of northern and rural communities, the party advocates:

- addressing the Northern health crisis by establishing a Northern Command Centre to hire 350 doctors, including 200 family doctors in Northern Ontario, and doubling residency positions at NOSM University.
- as part of its plan for fighting against rising costs, fast-tracking completion of Northlander Passenger Service and supporting Huron Central and Algoma Central Rail Lines.
- acting to make Northern highways safer, including putting an end to private highway maintenance contracts and bringing snow clearance and highway maintenance back under public control, and returning driver licensing back to the Ministry of Transportation to ensure there is accountability for truck drivers who need increased training to be prepared for Ontario's snowy winters, especially in Northern Ontario.

As part of its plan to make more new affordable homes available, the party advocates:

- accelerating the expansion of broadband internet infrastructure into Northern Ontario and end years of delays that, including canceling an existing \$100 million contract with Elon Musk's Starlink and replacing it with a Canadian alternative that offers better value and security for Ontario consumers.

#### **Refugees & Newcomers**

The party has published no current statement regarding its policies concerning refugees and newcomers.

Prior to the last election, the party stated that to support newcomers, it advocated growing the provincial workforce, particularly in health care, including:

- prioritizing a system to recognize skills and credentials of foreign-educated workers, with a focus on health care.
- creating a new language access strategy, to promote awareness of existing language service options and proclaiming February 22 a Day of Language Access.
- expanding family reunification and nominee programs.



**As of 23 February 2025, four days prior to the election it called, the party has published no comprehensive update or statement of its proposed policies.**

## Care for the Vulnerable

To help Ontario's most vulnerable, including low-income seniors and individuals living with mental health and addictions challenges who are experiencing unstable housing conditions, the party's 2024 Budget proposes:

- expanding the Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) program and indexing the GAINS benefit to inflation, to allow about 100,000 more low-income seniors to receive payments, which is a 50 per cent increase in recipients.
- investing an additional \$152 million over three years to support individuals facing unstable housing conditions and dealing with mental health and addictions challenges by funding a suite of supportive housing initiatives designed to bolster support for vulnerable populations, such as: providing rent supplements for up to 10,679 supportive housing units to mitigate the impact of increasing rent costs due to housing market conditions; maintaining 1,137 dedicated supportive housing units with expiring operating agreements, ensuring continued supportive housing for individuals with mental health and addictions challenges that are at risk of homelessness; providing Indwell Community Homes funding for rent supplements and mental health and addictions support services to maintain supportive housing for over 640 individuals; maintaining supportive housing for Salus in Ottawa and the Canadian Mental Health Association in North Bay and District, through investments to repair and renovate buildings, as well as to relocate up to 79 displaced low-income tenants with mental health and/or addictions needs.

## Indigenous Peoples

Prior to its current term in office, the party stated that:

- as a part of the province's to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, it proposed investing \$18.2 million over three years to help address violence against First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and girls, including enabling access to community supports; enhanced resources for First Nations police services for sexual assault, human trafficking and domestic violence investigations; culturally responsive programming to Indigenous women in the correctional system; and building on existing investments to support community safety and provide additional support to end violence against Indigenous women and girls
- it proposed doubling investment in the Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program, to address long-term infrastructure needs and fast-track shovel-ready on- and off-reserve projects.

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:

- it proposes to invest \$7.3 million through the Skills Development Fund to support Indigenous workers across Northern Ontario. The investment will fund eight innovative training projects that will help prepare 1,700 workers for in-demand jobs in critical sectors such as forestry, construction and health care. One of the projects, led by Ironworkers Local 759, will support 100 workers and job seekers to upgrade their skills for well-paying jobs in the construction sector. The other seven projects are led by various organizations across Northern Ontario and will help prepare job seekers for in-demand jobs across a number of industries.

## Northern, Rural, & Agricultural Communities

Prior to its current term in office, the party advocated:

- investing in expanded broadband internet access;
- increasing local infrastructure funding
- expanding natural gas distribution to rural communities by enabling private sector participation and use the up to \$100 million in savings to invest in cellular and broadband expansion
- ending bureaucratic review of the Ring of Fire project, to allow it to proceed
- to stimulate growth in the North moving forward with revenue sharing from mining, forestry, and aggregates
- ensure that hunting and fishing revenues go toward their stated purpose of conservation
- cutting the aviation fuel tax for the North, to help compensate for the cost of living
- restoring passenger rail service in the North

In its 2024 budget, the party:

- proposes allocations of more than \$190.2 billion over 10 years for highways, transit, broadband, housing-enabling and other infrastructure, including an initial \$3 billion to its new Building Ontario Fund, to support building of critical infrastructure projects in priority areas across the province, including long-term care homes, energy infrastructure, affordable housing, and transportation; and that the fund is also exploring opportunities to support large-scale projects in the postsecondary student housing, long-term care, energy generation, and municipal infrastructure sectors.
- as part of the \$190.2 billion allocation, it proposes doubling its annual investment to nearly \$2 billion over five years to fund asset management for 425 small, rural, and Northern communities, to help build and repair infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure.

- proposes allocations to restore the original Northlander rail passenger service cancelled in 2012. To that end it has purchased three new trainsets and is beginning station and track improvements.

#### ***Northern, Rural, & Indigenous Health Care***

The party's 2024 budget states that:

- the party proposes investing \$50 million over three years to enhance and stabilize health care capacity within Northern and rural communities, introducing long-term solutions encompassing education, recruitment, retention, scope of practice and care models to provide residents of Northern Ontario and those in remote areas with improved access to health care services; and supporting expansion of existing rural generalist pathways for physicians and funding additional supports and upskilling for other health care workers.
- to enhance the health and well-being of Indigenous and Northern communities through culturally-responsive and safe care, it proposes to allocate \$60 million over three years to maintain mental health and addictions services, including clinical supports, community mental health and well-being initiatives, and opioid programming; \$15 million over three years to support the ongoing delivery of Indigenous public health programs, including vaccination initiatives to improve health outcomes; \$11 million over three years to enhance early detection and management of foot complications arising from diabetes for Indigenous communities; and \$8 million over three years to strengthen prevention initiatives in Indigenous communities, targeting diabetes, smoking and chronic diseases.

## **Points to Ponder: Solidarity**

It is always important, as Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina has said, “to listen to the voices of the suffering, to be guided by them in how we respond and to be ready to engage with them in moving forward.” (Catholic Register 18 July 2021)

1. What does it mean – to the government, to social organizations, and to individual Canadians – to listen to, and to be guided by, the voice of someone who is suffering?
2. Who, in Canada and around the world, is suffering now?
3. How can such voices be heard so that a healthy, positive, and loving response can be determined?|

### **Indigenous Rights & Reconciliation**

1. How can the provincial government and the Church work together to facilitate real reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, so that all Canadians can benefit from re-established right-relationships?

### **Mental Health & Addictions**

Several parties have proposed decriminalization of drug dealing and drug possession, in order to focus on the treatment of addiction as a health care issue.

1. Is it possible, by decriminalizing drug sales and drug possession, to both relieve an overburdened criminal justice system and help more individuals heal and recover from addictions? If so, what might a helpful approach look like?
2. Is it possible, through review of criminal legislation, education, and focused health care initiatives, to give individuals greater freedom to “develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny?” (quoting St. John Paul II, *On the Hundredth Year (Centesimus Annus)* #39)
3. Is there any way to ensure that such measures are accompanied by effective mechanisms to address the root causes of and eliminate drug abuse, for example through educational initiatives at all levels of society?
4. To what extent can or should such measures be tailored to the individual human needs, desires, and weaknesses of those caught in cycles of abuse?

### **Refugees & Newcomers**

1. What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure that refugees and newcomers are safe, healthy, and enabled to flourish in Ontario?
2. It seems obvious that many immigrants are attracted by one or more features of Canadian life and culture. To what extent is it possible and proper to expose immigrants to Canadian culture and expect them to embrace it?
3. If it is possible and proper to any degree, how are Canadian life and culture are to be defined, and by whom?

### **Northern & Rural Communities**

1. What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure vibrant, healthy rural life in Ontario?
2. Of those measures, what should be done at the federal level? By the provinces? By businesses, residents, and civil associations in rural areas?
3. Northern areas are also of concern. What special circumstances are faced by those living in the North, and how should their needs best be assessed?

## Good Government: Democracy, Justice & Peace

Role & Purpose of Government | Taxes, Services, Stewardship & Reform | Intergovernmental Relations | Courts & Public Safety

***An authentic democracy is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church)***

### Catholic Teaching

#### The Proper Role of Government

It is impossible to understand the role and purpose of government and other social institutions without first appreciating the purpose of life.

If, as the Church believes, the purpose of life is for each soul to search for and find the truth which is God, and to seek to grow closer to God, and to ensure that all other souls are encouraged and enabled to find their own ways to God, it follows that the proper role of government is to provide, with the support of the Church and other moral, educational, and economic institutions, a legal and economic framework in which the common good can flourish, in order that the people may accomplish their mission, that is, so that the people may use the freedom God has given them to seek the truth and thereby return to Him.

An authentic democracy is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost and its stability is compromised.

The Church's social doctrine sees ethical relativism, which maintains that there are no objective or universal criteria for establishing the foundations of a correct hierarchy of values, as one of the greatest threats to modern-day democracies. – 407, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Responsibilities of the State include:  
– ensuring that all individuals are enabled to achieve their full potential, by maintaining a framework capable



#### Role & Purpose of Government

The party has published no direct statement regarding its understanding of the role and purpose of democratic provincial government.

#### Stewardship & Reform

The party states that:

- just over half of eligible voters in Ontario actually turn out to the polls—a sign of the deep cynicism that people have about politics. Governments have given them so many reasons to be distrustful, from gas plant scandals to the influence of big donors.
- many Ontarians have lost faith in the political system and simply given up on going to the polls on election day. Many believe that under the present system, their vote doesn't even count.
- this is why it prefers proportional representation voting systems that are truly representative of the electorate.
- even under a first past the post system, however, it does politics differently, with a willingness to work across the aisle to get things done and a focus on people over party.
- a democracy is only as strong as the people that lead it. Encouraging participation in running, voting and all areas of the political system are important pieces of the democratic system.

#### The party advocates:

- **reform of the democratic process**, including creation of a diverse, randomly selected Citizens Assembly on electoral reform with a mandate to provide binding recommendations on modernising Ontario's electoral system to ensure that every vote counts and the legislature reflects the democratic will of the people; allowing municipalities the option to use a ranked ballot voting system for elections; creating limits for municipal elections whereby no person may contribute more than \$1000 to all candidates, combined; reducing donation limits for provincial political parties, candidates, and constituency associations to \$1000 per year; restoring Auditor General oversight of government advertising; and requiring a five year cooling off period before MPPs and government advisors can register as lobbyists.
- **making politics more inclusive and collaborative**, including making funding available for non-profit organisations that provide additional training and mentorship opportunities for women, Black, Indigenous, racialized, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals who are considering running for political office; reducing the voting age to 16 years old; increasing the quality and quantity of local public input in provincial decision-making by creating new channels to give citizens a voice, both through MPPs and ministries; and allowing the introduction of electronic petitions to the Ontario Legislature.
- **protecting voter rights and empowering citizens** by making the day of a general election an official paid holiday; enforcing strict accessibility standards at voting stations; and increasing the number of mobile polls at hospitals, seniors' residences, and for people with accessibility issues which prohibit them from easily leaving their homes.

#### Provinces, Territories, & Municipalities

The party states that:

- municipalities have been under immense pressure these past few years, as previous governments have downloaded many social costs onto municipalities.
  - with municipalities covering these costs, there is less money for other vital services such as transit, libraries, community centres, parks and municipal building retrofits
- The provincial government should be a partner in helping fund such important services.

To support and strengthen municipal governments the party advocates:

of providing all the material, moral, and spiritual goods necessary for the common good  
– harmonizing the different interests of sectors of society with the requirements of justice, including particularly the reconciliation of private ownership of goods with the common good  
– ordering society not only in accordance with the desires of the majority, but the effective good of all the members of the community, including minorities  
– 168, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### Stewardship of Office

Public administration at any level — national, regional, community — is to be oriented towards the service of citizens, serving as steward of the people's resources, which it must administer with a view to the common good.

Tax revenues and public spending take on crucial economic importance for every civil and political community. The goal to be sought is public financing that is itself capable of becoming an instrument of development and solidarity. Just, efficient and effective public financing will have very positive effects on the economy, because it will encourage employment growth and sustain business and non-profit activities and help to increase the credibility of the State as the guarantor of systems of social insurance and protection that are designed above all to protect the weakest members of society.

Public spending is directed to the common good when certain fundamental principles are observed: the payment of taxes as part of the duty of solidarity; a reasonable and fair application of taxes; precision and integrity in administering and distributing public resources.

In the redistribution of resources, public spending must observe the principles of solidarity, equality and making use of talents. It must also pay greater attention to families, designating an adequate amount of resources for this purpose. In the democratic system, political authority is accountable to the people. 355, 408, 412, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### Democratic Reform

Representative bodies must be subjected to effective social control. This control can be carried out above all in free elections which allow the selection and change of representatives. The obligation on the part of those

- granting municipalities autonomy to implement revenue tools to fund critical infrastructure needs and services.
- providing financial support for municipalities to bolster local infrastructure, including provincially funding 50% of shelter and community housing costs while allowing municipalities to maintain management control; restoring the 50% provincial cost-share for transit operations and supporting electrification plans for all municipal transit systems; and creating a dedicated \$2B per year Climate Adaptation Fund for municipalities.
- increasing collaboration and consultation between municipalities and the province.
- assessing the use of City Charters as a mechanism to empower major Ontario cities, such as Toronto, and preventing inappropriate interference in local democracy by the provincial government.

### Public Safety

#### The party advocates:

- **as a step toward treatment of mental health and addiction as a public health issue**, working with the federal government to fast-track the decriminalisation of drugs and reallocate funding from the justice system to mental health care services.
- **to address discrimination within the justice system**, banning the practice of carding and deleting existing data that has been collected from carding in the past; reforming the Special Investigation Unit to ensure transparency and justice for racialized individuals who are victims of violence and discrimination at the hands of law enforcement; acknowledging and commitment to addressing the disproportionately violent and discriminatory law enforcement experienced by Indigenous, Black and racialized people; decriminalizing drug use, expand safe consumption sites, and shifting funding from the justice system to healthcare; developing a 3 digit dedicated crisis response line and health-focused crisis response teams to respond to mental health and substance related calls; ensuring that court mental health workers are available in all regions of Ontario to divert more individuals living with a mental health issue and/or substance use concern out of the justice system and into mental health and addictions services and supports; restoring adequate funding to Legal Aid by boosting their base budget and developing a long-term, structurally stable funding plan; and immediately appointing more full-time, qualified, and competent adjudicators to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario to ensure timely and effective case hearings.
- **improving provincial climate safety and resilience** by planning how to manage the health risks to people, including heat, wildfire smoke, flooding, drought, and insect-borne diseases; creating a Climate Adaptation Fund funded by a dedicated adaptation levy to help get the overdue work underway to prepare municipalities, infrastructure, buildings, agriculture and forestry to withstand the increased effects of climate change; requiring all large public and private organizations to evaluate their vulnerability to climate shocks and stresses, and to plan how to manage them; integrating climate resilience into land use planning and when designing, sizing and siting infrastructure; and expanding natural infrastructure on private and public lands to increase resilience to climate risks.



### Government and Community

The preface of the party's 2025 platform states that:

- growing the provincial economy starts with investing in workers, communities and healthcare, not just the rich.
- it proposes investment in needed roads, hospitals and schools, reducing gridlock, and supporting economic growth and diversification.

Specifically, the party advocates:

- guaranteeing everyone a family doctor in four years, ensuring that mental healthcare is covered under OHIP, and supporting seniors to age with dignity.
- slashing taxes, saving taxpayers thousands annually by permanently cutting income tax for workers and eliminating sales tax (HST) on home heating and hydro bills.
- building more affordable homes by eliminating development charges, restoring the dream of homeownership, and bringing fairness back to the rental market.
- permanently doubling ODSP so Ontario's most vulnerable are not left behind.
- clearing the school repair backlog, improving safety at school, and providing education that prepares Ontario for the future.

The party further states that:

- violent crime is at a two-decade high, provincial transit systems aren't working as they should, and Ontario's neighbourhood parks have been taken over by encampments.
- Ontario is a province of natural beauty and bountiful farmland, but those shared resources are under threat from rich influencers and insiders.
- it's time to build needed roads, bridges and transit, protect the environment and clean up the streets and parks.



elected to give an accounting of their work — which is guaranteed by respecting electoral terms — is a constitutive element of democratic representation.

Among the deformities of the democratic system, political corruption is one of the most serious. If there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political action, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. A democracy without values easily turns into totalitarianism. — 406-412, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### ***Cooperation and respect between parties***

Political parties have the task of fostering widespread participation and making public responsibilities accessible to all. Political parties are called to interpret the aspirations of civil society, orienting them towards the common good... An authentic democracy is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost and its stability is compromised. — 407, 413, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

### **Peace & Good Order**

### **Peace & International Relations**

Because of the new bonds of interdependence among global operators, the traditional defensive measures of States appear to be destined to failure.

The centrality of the human person and the natural inclination of persons and peoples to establish relationships among themselves are the fundamental elements for building a true international community, the ordering of which must aim at guaranteeing the effective universal common good... [T]he unity of the human family is not yet becoming a reality. This is due to obstacles originating in materialistic and nationalistic ideologies that contradict the values of the person integrally considered in all his various dimensions, material and spiritual, individual and community. In particular, any theory or form whatsoever of racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable. The coexistence among nations is based on the same values that should guide relations among human beings: truth,

### **The Role & Purpose of Government**

The party's constitution states that the party's objects include:

- advocating and supporting liberal political principles;
- developing and determining provincial policy;
- organizing itself;
- promoting the election of Liberal candidates to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario;
- promoting the election of Liberals to municipal and local elected offices; and
- encouraging and facilitating participation in the Ontario Liberal Party by individuals from all demographic groups in Ontario.

### **Taxes, Services, Stewardship and Reform**

The party states that:

- the current government's self-serving early election call means there has been no update to Ontario's economic and fiscal outlook as Ontario and all Canada go into a possible trade war with the current US administration. No one knows what the public finances look like because the current government won't tell anyone before the vote.
- in the final hours before calling the election, the current government announced more than \$8.8 billion in new spending, on top of its proposed \$150 billion tunnel, which it has committed to pursuing on multiple occasions.
- Ontario is now taking in the highest per-capita provincial revenues in its history, even after adjusting for inflation.
- its plan will promote stronger economic growth, meaning more sustainable government finances.

The party advocates reducing the provincial tax burden and investing in the basic public services that will help families get ahead. Its proposed plan is costed, prioritizes tax reduction and getting the basics right. Its proposed plan includes no tax increases and no new taxes, and it costs far less than the government's proposed tunnel.

To support its proposed investments, the party undertakes to:

- implement an ambitious Saving Annually through Value and Efficiency (SAVE) process that will aim to achieve 2.5% of annual savings and value enhancement for Ontario taxpayers.
- create an Office of Cost Control responsible for oversight on all major public sector procurement projects and spending at both the municipal and provincial levels, including reviewing the significant overspending on recent transportation projects and leveraging the best available Canadian innovation, technology and artificial intelligence (AI), cutting down on outsourcing, improving efficiency and project delivery, and better focusing the province on what it can do best.
- ensure accountability for the promises being made by providing regular updates to the public on progress.
- amend the Taxpayer Protection Act to require political parties to disclose to the Chief Electoral Officer all plans they have for tax reduction before an election and impose consequences on governments who do not keep these commitments when in office.

### **Public Safety**

To clean up crime and make transit safer, the party advocates:

- training more officers to get crime and drugs off our streets and launching special Bail Courts for high-risk and repeat offenders involved with illegal drug and fentanyl trafficking, firearm offences, robberies, home invasion, carjacking and auto-theft.
- hiring an additional 300 special constables for TTC, OC Transpo, Metrolinx and other major transit service providers across the province.
- connecting people to mental health resources and community support by establishing the CARE Fund (Crisis Assistance and Response Enhancement Fund) to double investment in Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams.
- providing transit services with operational funding for safety equipment like cameras.
- installing platform doors in all TTC subway stations.
- safeguarding communities and assisting police to monitor and catch criminals by introducing the SAFE Rebate (Supporting Access to Funding for Equipment) that offers up to \$500 rebate for homes, \$5,000 rebate for small businesses and \$10,000 rebate for religious/cultural institutions to purchase safety equipment that deters auto-theft, robberies and other criminal activities.
- banning organizing or participating in hate-motivated activities or protests that incite violence or intimidation within 100 metres of the property line of any vulnerable social infrastructure (ex. place of worship, school, childcare centre, or hospital) anywhere in the province, and imposing a maximum fine of \$100,000 for each violation.

**The party has provided no current statement of its policies relating to:**

justice, active solidarity and freedom.... *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 370, 433

### ***Global care for the environment***

Responsibility for the environment should also find adequate expression on a juridical level. It is important that the international community draw up uniform rules that will allow States to exercise more effective control over the various activities that have negative effects on the environment and to protect ecosystems by preventing the risk of accidents... They must be accompanied by a growing sense of responsibility as well as an effective change of mentality and lifestyle.

*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 467, 468

### ***Peacekeeping & Embargoes***

States do not always possess adequate means to provide effectively for their own defence. From this derives the need and importance of international and regional organizations, which should be in a position to work together to resolve conflicts and promote peace, re-establishing relationships of mutual trust that make recourse to war unthinkable.

The purpose of sanctions must be clearly defined and the measures adopted must from time to time be objectively evaluated by the competent bodies of the international community as to their effectiveness and their real impact on the civilian population. The true objective of such measures is open to the way to negotiation and dialogue. Sanctions must never be used as a means for the direct punishment of an entire population. Economic sanctions in particular are an instrument to be used with great discernment and must be subjected to strict legal and ethical criteria. An economic embargo must be of limited duration and cannot be justified when the resulting effects are indiscriminate. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 499, 507

### ***Displaced Persons & Humanitarian Aid***

A particular category of war victim is formed by refugees, forced by combat to flee the places where they habitually live and to seek refuge in foreign countries. The Church is close to them not only with her pastoral presence and material support, but also with her commitment to defend their human dignity: Concern for refugees must lead us to reaffirm and highlight universally recognized human rights, and to ask that the effective recognition of these rights be guaranteed to refugees.

- stewardship & reform
- intergovernmental relations



### **The Role and Purpose of Government**

The party's constitution states that:

- the provincial Party will unite progressive people and organizations into a party democratically controlled and openly financed by its membership.
- it will, with all the resources at its command, extend the policies and program on a provincial level of the New Democratic Party (of Canada). It will endeavour to establish in this province a government whose object shall be to substitute economic planning for irresponsible control with all its unjust consequences and thereby to give maximum opportunity for public, co-operative, and private enterprise to contribute to the development of our province.
- to that end it will invite the cooperation of all persons who are dedicated to the extension of freedom, the abolition of poverty and the elimination of exploitation.

The party's 2025 platform states that its immediate priorities include:

- fighting rising costs, including providing a monthly grocery rebate to put more money in your pocket, and cracking down on big grocery store price fixing with a new consumer watchdog.
- hiring more doctors, including connecting everyone to a family doctor by fast-tracking approval of more family health teams and community health centres, and clearing the paperwork for doctors so they can see more patients, faster.
- fast-track building of affordable homes, including launching the largest homebuilding program in generations and implementing real rent control to protect tenants.
- defending Ontario jobs, by taking a leading role on Team Canada to protect the jobs and pensions of Ontario workers in auto, steel and agriculture – and directing government agencies to Buy Ontario.
- cleaning up corruption at Queen's Park, including bringing integrity back to government and putting an end to the wasteful schemes and bad deals that have cost taxpayers.

### **Stewardship of Office; Reform**

The party states that:

- it will restore transparency, accountability, and integrity in government after decades of self-serving governments that put private interests ahead of the public good. The Liberals sold off Hydro One, leaving Ontarians with skyrocketing energy costs. From the Progressive Conservatives' land grab to their to the Ontario Place giveaway, its government has repeatedly put well-connected insiders ahead of everyday people.
- it will strengthen lobbying rules and the Members Integrity Act, ensuring decisions are made in the public's best interest—not for profit-driven political friends.

### **Electoral Reform**

To make the provincial voting system fair and more inclusive, the party advocates replacing the first-past-the-post system with a mixed-member proportional voting system where every vote counts, including consultation with the public, civil society and other political parties to design a made-in-Ontario voting system that reflects the needs of Ontario's communities.

### **Revenue & Budgets**

The party states that:

- public funds should be put to use for the public good, and government spending should reflect the real priorities of Ontarians. Wasteful projects like fantasy tunnels and luxury mega-spas should be ended, along with sweetheart deals for corporate insiders and wealthy donors.
- instead, it proposes to invest that money in health care, schools, better roads and more homes.
- budgeting is about priorities. Investing in strong public services is not just the best thing to do—it's also the fiscally responsible choice.

The party advocates building a tariff-proof economy that works for everyone, by:

- prioritize domestic procurement, strengthening provincial supply chains, and protect good-paying jobs in key industries.
- supporting Ontario businesses and workers to ensure long-term stability and growth.
- conducting a tax fairness review to assess whether the current tax structure is equitable and meets the needs of our growing province.
- to help pay for services all Ontarians all rely on, implementing a provincial Luxury Residences Tax on purchasing homes over \$3 million, bringing in an expected 33 million dollars a year in new revenue.
- freezing income taxes for the 98.2% of Ontarians making under \$220,000 a year.

It is therefore essential to seek out the causes underlying bellicose conflicts, especially those connected with structural situations of injustice, poverty and exploitation, which require intervention so that they may be removed. For this reason, another name for peace is development. Just as there is a collective responsibility for avoiding war, so too there is a collective responsibility for promoting development. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 158, 498, 515*

### **Finance**

In the presence of new areas of competition, the very notion of a national market recedes into the background. If the creation of what is called the “global capital market” has brought benefits... on the other hand it has also increased the risk of financial crises. The financial sector, which has seen the volume of financial transactions far surpass that of real transactions, runs the risk of developing according to a mentality that has only itself as a point of reference, without being connected to the real foundations of the economy.

The more the worldwide economic-financial system reaches high levels of organizational and functional complexity, all the more priority must be given to the task of regulating these processes, directing them towards the goal of attaining the common good of the human family. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 368-371*

### **Trade**

The Church has time and again called attention to aberrations in the system of international trade, which often, owing to protectionist policies, discriminates against products coming from poorer countries and hinders the growth of industrial activity in and the transfer of technology to these countries.

The continuing deterioration in terms of the exchange of raw materials and the widening of the gap between rich and poor countries has prompted the Church to point out the importance of ethical criteria that should form the basis of international economic relations: the pursuit of the common good and the universal destination of goods; equity in trade relationships; and attention to the rights and needs of the poor in policies concerning trade and international cooperation.

Economic and social imbalances in the world of work must be addressed by restoring a just hierarchy of values

## **Intergovernmental and Public Relationships**

### **Municipalities**

As a part of its program to make more new affordable homes available, the party advocates:

- updating 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.
- helping municipalities address their housing needs by uploading the cost of housing, emergency shelters, and homelessness prevention programs back to the province, while maintaining locally focused delivery through municipal service managers; and working with municipalities to create incentives for affordable housing in the marketplace, including development charge easements.
- uploading back costs that were unfairly downloaded onto municipal taxpayers, including the costs of maintaining provincially owned “connecting link” highways, including providing adequate, predictable and consistent formula-based provincial funding to ensure that municipalities are able to maintain, snow-clear and repair their roads, bridges and other infrastructure, with additional support for small and Northern municipalities that must look after large areas with small tax bases.
- protecting Greenbelt, and Ontario’s prime farmland, by focusing growth sustainably and cost-effectively within the pre-2022 urban boundaries, keeping infrastructure costs down in the process.

### **Federal Government**

To make life better for Ontarians the party advocates:

- ensuring that the province is a strong partner and a leading voice in discussions with the federal government, pushing to improve health care, education, jobs, and a clean, sustainable future for all Ontarians.

## **Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

### **Courts & justice**

To end delays in court and keep communities safe, the party advocates:

- 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.
- recognizing Intimate Partner Violence as an epidemic, and directing Ministries to coordinate improved access to services for survivors, and restoring the full Victims Compensation Fund.



**As of 23 February 2025, four days prior to the election it called, the party has published no update or comprehensive statement of its proposed policies.**

### **Role and Purpose of Government**

The party’s constitution states that as matters of principle it believes:

- in freedom of speech, worship and assembly, in loyalty to Canada and to the Monarch of Canada and in the rule of law.
- that that government should serve the people and that progress requires a competitive economy, which, accepting its social responsibilities, allows every individual freedom of opportunity and initiative and the peaceful enjoyment of the fruits of his or her own labour.
- in the ethical and accountable execution of the business of government.
- that the interests of Ontario are best served by a strong, united and democratic Canada.
- that economic freedom, entrepreneurial spirit and the right to private property are essential to economic prosperity and political freedom.
- in the values of the family which encourage tolerance and mutual support.
- that social justice entails equality of opportunity, including fair and equal treatment for all Ontarians and the provision of support to those in need.
- in and accepts its responsibilities for the preservation of Ontario’s heritage and cultural diversity and the conservation and renewal of the environment for present and future generations.

and placing the human dignity of workers before all else. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 370, 321, 364

Disarmament

The Church proposes the goal of general, balanced and controlled disarmament. The enormous increase in arms represents a grave threat to stability and peace. The principle of sufficiency, by virtue of which each State may possess only the means necessary for its legitimate defence, must be applied both by States that buy arms and by those that produce and furnish them. Any excessive stockpiling or indiscriminate trading in arms cannot be morally justified.

The doctrine of deterrence gives rise to strong moral reservations. The arms race does not ensure peace. The principle of the non-proliferation of nuclear arms, together with measures of nuclear disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear tests, are intimately interconnected objectives that must be met as soon as possible by means of effective controls at the international level. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 508-509

Arms Sales

War is a scourge and is never an appropriate way to resolve problems that arise between nations. Appropriate measures are needed to control the production, sale, importation and exportation of small arms and light weapons, armaments that facilitate many outbreaks of violence to occur. The sale and trafficking of such weapons constitute a serious threat to peace: these arms kill and are used for the most part in internal and regional conflicts; their ready availability increases both the risk of new conflicts and the intensity of those already underway. The position of States that apply severe controls on the international transfer of heavy arms while they never, or only very rarely, restrict the sale and trafficking of small arms and light weapons is an unacceptable contradiction. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 497-511

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

In order to protect the common good, the lawful public authority must exercise the right and the duty to inflict punishments according to the seriousness of the crimes committed. The State has the twofold responsibility to discourage behaviour that is harmful to human rights and the fundamental norms of civil life, and to repair, through

Stewardship of Office

Taxes & Accountability

Prior to its current term in office the party stated that the province has a spending problem, rather than a revenue problem, due to government-wide inefficiencies.

At that time the party advocated

- in order to control waste and mismanagement in government, an open, line-by-line audit of government spending.
- an independent commission of inquiry to investigate the provincial deficit scandal and propose solutions.
- returning to a balanced budget on a responsible timeframe.
- centralization of government purchasing.
- to make the financing of projects more transparent, separating funding for energy projects from electricity bills.
- cancelling and renegotiating energy contracts in the pre-construction and phase.
- declaring a moratorium on new energy contracts.
- creating a 75% refundable tax credit for child care costs for children aged 0-15.

In its 2024 budget, the party states that:

- over the period 2022-2024 revenue grew 6% from \$192.9 billion to \$204.3 billion, funded by a 15% rise in personal income tax, 10% rise in sales tax, and 11% rise in Ontario health premium, while corporate tax collections dropped 9% and property taxes 3% (see for example Table 3.5 below, taken from the party’s 2024 budget).
- during the period 2021-2024 spending increased 13%, from \$183.1 billion to \$207.3 billion.
- during the period 2021-2024 provincial debt increased 4%, from \$399.6 billion to \$403.4 billion.

Table 3.5

Summary of Medium-Term Revenue Outlook

(\$ Billions)

	Actual	Interim <sup>1</sup>	Medium-Term Outlook		
	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
Revenue					
Personal Income Tax	44.2	50.6	51.9	55.1	58.3
Sales Tax	36.1	39.8	38.8	40.6	42.7
Corporations Tax	27.8	24.2	24.9	26.3	28.0
Ontario Health Premium	4.4	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.4
Education Property Tax	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9
All Other Taxes	18.0	17.2	18.2	20.4	21.0
Total Taxation Revenue	136.5	142.5	144.7	153.5	161.3
Government of Canada	31.3	34.8	36.3	37.5	38.7
Income from Government Business Enterprises	6.1	7.3	6.8	8.0	7.8
Other Non-Tax Revenue	19.0	19.8	18.0	18.5	18.8
Total Revenue	192.9	204.3	205.7	217.4	226.6

<sup>1</sup> Interim represents the 2024 Budget projection for the 2023–24 fiscal year.  
Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.  
Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance.

Democratic Reform

Prior to its current term in office, the party stated that:

- to improve public trust, it advocated prohibiting government agencies, boards, and commissions from purchasing attendance at political events.

Regulatory Reform

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:



the penal system, the disorder created by criminal activity...

Punishment does not serve merely the purpose of defending the public order and guaranteeing the safety of persons; it becomes as well an instrument for the correction of the offender. There is a twofold purpose here. On the one hand, encouraging the reinsertion of the condemned person into society; on the other, fostering a justice that reconciles, a justice capable of restoring harmony in social relationships disrupted by the criminal act committed. – 402 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

- since 2018, it has taken over 500 actions to reduce regulatory burdens — all without compromising health and safety in the population, or the environment – in order to open doors to new economic opportunities and reduce unnecessary burdens for individuals and businesses, saving \$939 million in gross annual compliance costs that would have otherwise been incurred by businesses, not-for-profit organizations and the broader public sector.

- it continues to reports on the progress of regulatory reform in its annual Burden Reduction Report. It most recent report highlights: (i) creating new ways for individuals to receive medical care in their community; (ii) making the online process easier for the application, replacement and renewal of accessible parking permits; (iii) upgrading the Service Ontario appointment booking system to book multiple services in a single appointment or a single appointment for the whole family; (iv) streamlining housing development approvals; and (v) helping municipalities better manage restrictions on roads (load periods), including shortening their duration when conditions permit, to support lower costs and better delivery times for the trucking and agri-businesses industry.

#### **Agency Oversight**

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that it is strengthening oversight of provincial agencies to ensure that public services are modernized and accountable, including introduction of new measures and reporting requirements to ensure that the agencies are efficient, sustainable and accountable while also being nimble to meet the demands of the public they serve.

#### **Intergovernmental Relationships**

On February 20, 2025, the party published an online statement stating that in order to build the True North, Strong and Free, it proposed:

- Strongly advocating **that the federal government immediately increase defence spending to meet and exceed Canada’s minimum two per cent NATO commitment** and link procurement to domestic economic development opportunities.
- **Investing \$200 million for the Shipbuilding Grant Program under Ontario’s Marine Transportation Strategy** to help make Ontario’s shipbuilding industry a full regional partner under the federal government’s National Shipbuilding Strategy and secure Canadian contracts to build, retrofit, and repair Canadian Navy ships in Ontario.
- **Creating a new Defence Security Investment Tax Credit** to attract greater investment and job creation in the province and help meet our two per cent of GDP NATO commitment, including by supporting investments in innovative critical technologies such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity to support the future of defence technologies.
- **Providing \$50 million more to Venture Ontario**, the province’s venture capital agency, to make dedicated capital fund investments to support domestic start-ups in strategic technology areas that support our national defence.

#### **Public Safety**

Prior to its current term in office, the party stated that:

- every Ontario family deserves to live in safety, with peace of mind that they will be protected from gun and gang violence.  
- to assist survivors of domestic violence, which has increased during COVID-19, and other crimes like human trafficking, it was investing an additional \$2.1 million over three years to support victims of crime. This support was in addition to funding provided through various existing programs to help victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes.

At that time the party advocated:

- ensuring that provincial laws are up to the task of fighting 21<sup>st</sup> century issues, while respecting victims and law-abiding families.  
- ensuring that the brave women and men in law enforcement have the resources they need to keep us safe.  
- restoring funding to the anti-guns-and-gangs units in Ottawa and Toronto.  
- dedicating resources to fight organized crime, including the production and smuggling of contraband and illicit drugs, as well as child exploitation and human Trafficking.  
- respecting the vulnerable, by committing resources to combat domestic abuse, including elder abuse.  
- investing \$30 million per year to hire more corrections, probation and parole officers to hold criminals accountable and protect victims.

In its 2024 Budget, the party states that:

- violent crime within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) has been increasing in volume, scope and complexity in recent years. To address this challenge, it is allocating \$46 million over three years to support patrol and improve response times to major incidents and serious crimes, including the purchase of four helicopters. These additional resources will help protect communities by: keeping highways and roadways safe from street racing, impaired driving, violent carjacking and automobile theft; locating missing persons, including children, the elderly and vulnerable people; apprehending high-risk suspects, including perpetrators of violent crime; and supporting marine units and enhancing search and rescue capacity.



- to fight auto theft, it is collaborating with municipalities and the federal government, providing funding to police services and raising public awareness of auto theft prevention measures. It proposes allocation of \$49 million over three years to help police put those responsible for auto thefts behind bars. These investments support the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Organized Crime Towing and Auto Theft Team, which is working with municipal police services to identify, disrupt and dismantle organized crime networks participating in vehicle theft. In addition, Ontario's Major Auto Theft Prosecution Response Team provides dedicated support to the OPP to prepare and prosecute complex cases, ensuring that offenders are held accountable. This funding also continues support for the Greater Toronto Area-Greater Golden Horseshoe Investigative Fund, which was created to help stop the illegal export of stolen vehicles and target violent crime linked to criminal organizations.
- it continues to advocate for the federal government to amend the Criminal Code and implement tougher penalties for individuals who commit violent crime and car thefts. The federal government has signaled its willingness to work with all provinces and territories to identify and implement concrete, collaborative and innovative solutions.
- to keep communities safe and support the province's firefighters, who are more likely to experience health problems because of exposure to hazardous chemicals, it proposes allocation of \$30 million over the next three years to provide municipal fire departments, including those in small and rural communities, with funding for personal protective equipment and specialized decontamination tools to clean and sanitize firefighter gear and mitigate the long-term effects of exposure to chemicals and other fire-related contaminants.
- to improve response times for first responders, the party advocates continued work to enable seamless communication between fire and paramedic dispatch systems across the province. This technology will enable municipalities with tiered response agreements to implement simultaneous notification between their fire and paramedic services and facilitate faster response times.
- it has invested \$5 million to ensure communities across the province have the resources and equipment needed to prepare for natural disasters and emergencies, including training.
- to prevent gender-based violence, it proposes to build on prior allocations of \$1.4 billion over four years by providing an additional \$13.5 million over three years to enhance initiatives that support women, children, youth and others who are at increased risk of violence or exploitation, including Indigenous and racialized communities, and children and youth in the child welfare system. These initiatives include: (i) \$6 million over three years to support the Children at Risk of Exploitation (CARE) Unit in Kenora District with increased access to trauma-informed specialized supports for children and youth who have been sex trafficked; (ii) \$4.5 million over three years in additional funding for the Victim Quick Response Program+ to increase access to basic necessities for victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence and their families, especially those in Northern, rural and remote communities; (iii) \$2.5 million over three years in additional funding to increase outreach to children and youth with involvement in the child welfare system and link them with resource and educational supports; and (iv) \$0.5 million in 2024–25 to increase training for workers in the child welfare sector to help them respond to human trafficking and identify at-risk children and youth.
- it proposes to allocate \$27 million over three years to enhance sexual assault and domestic violence services across the province to help victims and survivors receive compassionate and professional support directly within hospital settings by provide the provinces 37 treatment centres with additional clinical resources and extend the reach of sexual and domestic violence services to hospitals currently not in the network. It will also support the expansion of the Provincial Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Navigation Line to provide 24/7 care for victims and survivors.
- in addition, it proposes allocation of \$6.4 million over three years to support the Independent Legal Advice for Survivors of Sexual Assault program, and sustain and expand the Child Victim Witness Support Program. Participation in these programs allows recipients to better understand the criminal court process and make informed decisions about their legal options, including reporting the incident and holding the offenders to account after experiencing sexual assault.
- since the legalization of cannabis in 2018, Ontario has moved forward with rules to keep cannabis out of the hands of children and youth and keep roads safe. The government is committed to combatting the illegal cannabis market to ensure the integrity of the regulated private retail model and address the significant health risks associated with illegal cannabis products that do not meet government safety standards. To that end it proposes allocation of \$31 million over the next three years to support the Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Teams (PJFCET), an OPP-led centralized enforcement unit that has a proven track record in enforcement operations against illegal cannabis storefronts. This investment would enable the PJFCET to respond to the challenge of illegal online operators and crack down further on the production, sale and distribution of illegal cannabis in the online and offline space.
- it proposes changes in the Tobacco Tax Act pursuant to its review, to strengthen oversight and reduce burden on registrants, while continuing to address contraband tobacco, which is a persistent challenge in Ontario, through stronger fines, including cross-designation of inspectors to seize certain tobacco products in contravention of both the Tobacco Tax Act and the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017.

## Points to Ponder: Good Government

Consider discussing the following with your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties, and discussing with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

### The Role and Purpose of Government

Catholics have definite ideas about the purpose of life and, arising from that purpose, the proper roles of civil society, government, and other social institutions.

1. Are those ideas shared by most Canadians? If not, to what extent can or should we share our ideas with other Canadians?

2. Are any values held in common by most Canadians? If so, what are they, and how do they inform the proper role of government and other social institutions? For example, what do we owe each other, and what does the answer mean for government, charities, schools, etc.?
3. Is it important for a society to share common values? How can common values be promoted within a society?

The Government of Canada has recently published a Framework for Quality of Life (<https://www160.statcan.gc.ca/infosheet-infofiche-eng.htm>), and has instructed its ministers that “Across our work, we remain committed to ensuring that public policies are informed and developed through an intersectional lens, including applying frameworks such as Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) and the quality of life indicators in decision-making.”

1. To what extent is the Quality of Life framework consistent with the principles and values of Catholic social teaching?
2. To what extent does, or should, a Quality of Life framework apply to provincial governance as well we federal?

### Truth, Respect & Good Governance

Each of the mandate letters used by the federal government to instruct its ministers at the time the current government assumed office explained that: “Canadians expect us to work hard, speak truthfully and be committed to advancing their interests and aspirations. When we make mistakes – as we all will – Canadians expect us to acknowledge them, and most importantly, to learn from them.”

1. Has this standard been applied to provincial government in Ontario?
2. To the extent it has not, what can or should Ontario voters do to encourage their governments to apply it?

It is an unfortunate and nearly universal practice for our political parties, in framing their platforms and policy statements, to focus at least as much on what’s wrong with the other parties as they do on what’s right about themselves.

3. How can we, as citizens and voters, help encourage parties to look for common ground, speak positively and constructively about one another, and voice their suggestions for improvement in respectful and collaborative terms?
4. How can we, as individuals, parishes, and as a Church, encourage responsible individuals to consider and accept political vocations in pursuit of truth, justice, and the common good? What roles can or should local, provincial, and federal governments play in promoting such callings?

It is also a regular practice of our political parties to withhold publication of comprehensive platforms until a few weeks or even days before an election, no matter how much advance warning has been given them; and it is increasingly common for party platforms to be presented in ephemeral online formats that are difficult to archive for future reference. In place of platforms it is increasingly common for parties to publish sets of individual “commitments” in the form of individual, easily-removed online statements, so that it would seem that the elections become last minute advertising blitzes.

3. As such practices consistent with good democratic government? Is it fair to expect voters to chase comprehensive sets of last minute commitments rather than to consult, at a more considered pace, comprehensive statements of complete policy portfolios? Should voters be able to easily download and retain complete platforms for future reference, for example, for use in later considering whether commitments and policies have been honoured? How benefits from providing last-minute “shot-gun blasts” of fragmented policies?
4. Is it responsibly possible for voters to consider fragmented collections of individual policies, rather than holistic policy statements? Are they able to fairly judge who might best be suited to govern them? If not, what can be done to encourage more responsible behaviours?

### Democratic Reform

Like other provinces, Ontario has adopted a fixed-date election system, so that for example voters, parties, and candidates will understand when the next election is due and will have proper time to prepare, and incumbents will have protected time periods in which to properly implement and try out new ideas, without fear of snap judgments and replacement.

The coming election was declared more than a year early, and with a single month for parties, voters, candidates, and others to prepare before the election.

1. Is the calling of elections in this fashion fair to the various principle stakeholders, such as the public and parties who may be in opposition? Who benefits from such practices?
2. In the case of Ontario, the elections law clearly states that the Lieutenant Governor can call an election at any time, without stating any reason for it, or specifying any process that must be followed in calling an early election. In the case of Ontario, is such a provision reasonable? Should some criteria and processes for the calling of elections be specified? If so, what criteria should be proposed?

Canada and many of its provinces have long debated the advantages and disadvantages of first-past-the-post vs. proportional voting schemes.

1. Should such systems be considered in Ontario? If so, what form should they take? Are the people of Ontario over or under-represented by the number of elected officials serving them?
2. How can we, as individuals, parishes, and as a Church, encourage responsible individuals to consider and accept political vocations in pursuit of truth, justice, and the common good? What roles can or should local, provincial, and federal governments play in promoting such callings?

It is very often the case that party members and candidates – including particularly rank-and-file members and their staff members – are very good people, who sacrifice much in order to contribute to a better world. And it seems too seldom that we thank them, or have anything other than criticism to offer.

What can we, as individuals, do to thank and support such selfless people?

### Contracting; Public – Private Partnerships

Contracting and cooperation between government and corporations or other private entities can be instrumental in accomplishing great common projects. On the other hand, unwatched they can become instruments of misuse.

1. To what extent should public-private partnerships be allowed, for research, infrastructure development, or other purposes?
2. What type(s) of entities should be considered when contemplating such partnerships? Local or foreign corporations? Non-profit or charitable organizations?
3. How should such partnerships be monitored or regulated, in order to assure that arms-length relationships are maintained, and that principles of subsidiarity are respected?

### Fiscal Responsibility

Table 4 below is taken from the report *The Growing Debt Burden from Canadians: 2024 edition* (©2024 Fraser Institute; <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/growing-debt-burden-for-canadians-2024.pdf>). The report shows provincial and federal debts following the 2023/24 fiscal year, and suggests that between provincial and federal debt, taxpayers in Ontario would appear to be liable for a debt of just over \$60,000 per provincial resident, to be repaid at some future point as directed by the government.

Charts 3.4, 3.5, and 4.11 are taken from the 2024 Ontario Budget, and show the history and predicted future of debt-to-productivity levels for Ontario from 1990 through 2027, as well as budgeted revenues and expenses.

1. What do these figures tell Ontarians?
2. Should voters, taxpayers, or future generations of voters, taxpayers, or citizens be concerned about any of these figures? If so, what can or should be done?

**Table 4: Combined Federal and Provincial Net Debt, 2023/24**

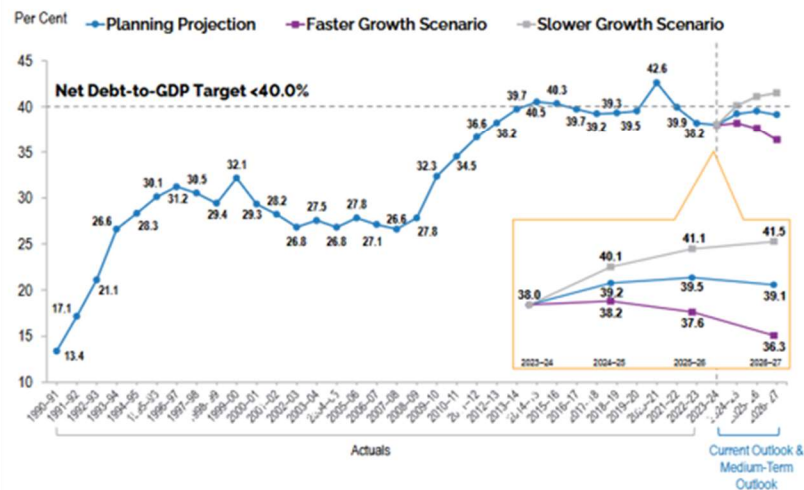
	PROVINCIAL NET DEBT (\$ BILLIONS)	FEDERAL PORTION OF NET DEBT (\$ BILLIONS)	COMBINED NET DEBT (\$ BILLIONS)	NET DEBT AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP (%)	NET DEBT PER PERSON (\$)
BC	74.7	180.6	255.2	63.4	47,042
AB	40.8	154.5	195.3	42.9	42,293
SK	15.0	41.3	56.3	49.6	46,715
MB	33.1	48.4	81.4	92.0	57,182
ON	416.1	514.8	930.9	86.6	60,609
QC	217.9	299.7	517.6	93.1	59,088
NB	12.6	27.5	40.1	87.8	49,003
NS	19.5	34.5	54.0	96.8	52,246
PEI	2.7	5.7	8.4	86.9	48,262
NL	17.1	18.3	35.4	86.2	67,471

Note: The combined federal and provincial net debt is a total of provincial net debt and the federal portion. The federal net debt is allocated to each of the provinces based on a 5-year average (2018-2022) of their population as a share of Canada's total population.

Sources: Figure 1; Statistics Canada (2023a, 2022a, 2022b); Gu (2023); calculations by authors.

© Fraser Institute, 2024

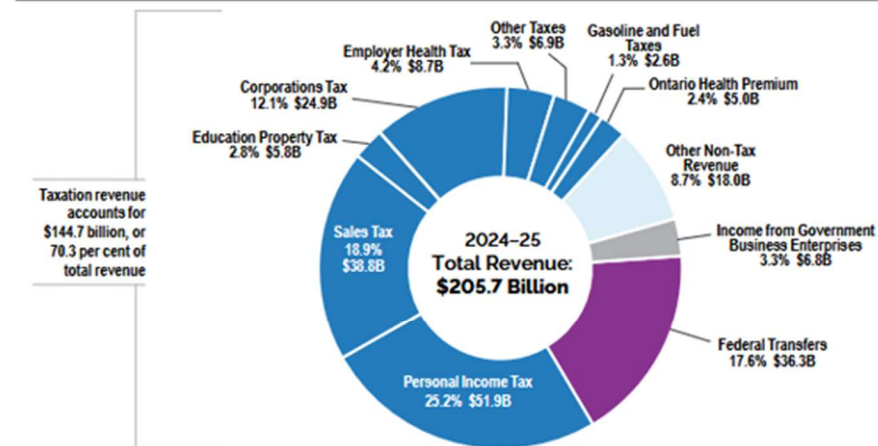
**Chart 4.11  
Net Debt-to-GDP**



Note: See Chapter 3. *Continuing to Invest in the Plan to Build: Ontario's Fiscal Plan and Outlook* for details on the Faster Growth and Slower Growth scenarios.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Ontario Ministry of Finance.

**Chart 3.4**

**Composition of Total Revenue, 2024-25**

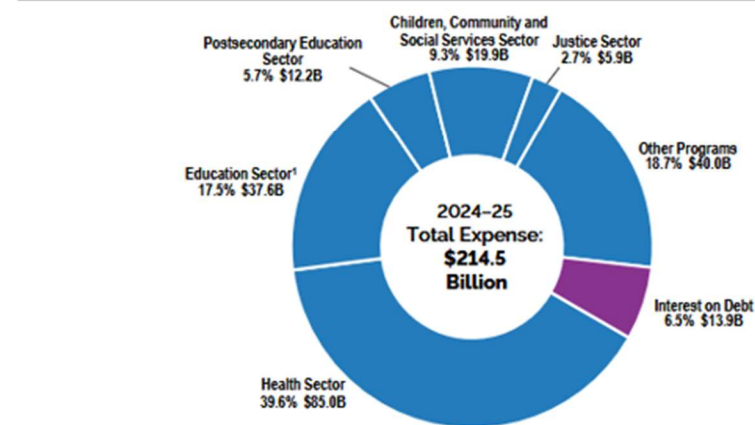


Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance.

**Chart 3.5**

**Composition of Total Expense, 2024-25**



<sup>1</sup> Excludes Teachers' Pension Plan. Teachers' Pension Plan expense is included in Other Programs.

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Sources: Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat and Ontario Ministry of Finance.