

K-W VOTES

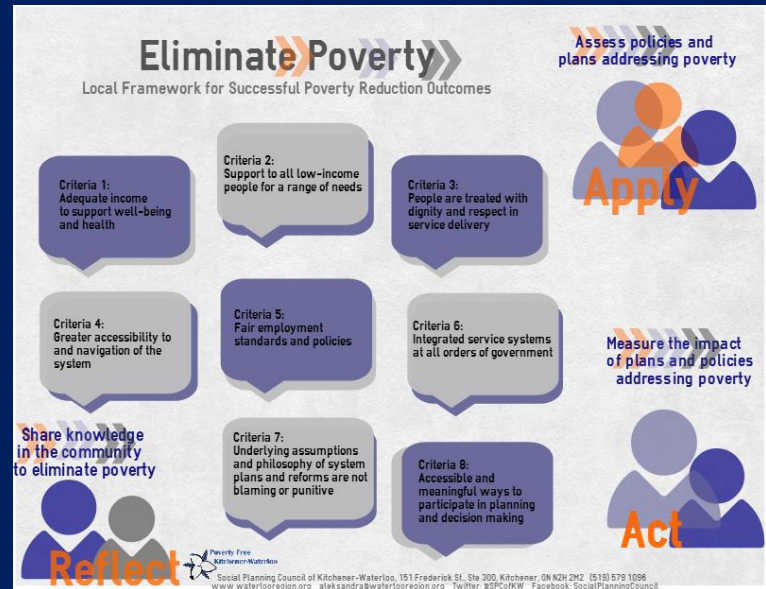
Provincial Election - June 12th



Party Platforms



Social Issues & Poverty Elimination



The Ontario Liberal Party platform has been looked at through the lens of the Local Framework for Successful Poverty Reduction Outcomes. The criteria have been developed through community consultations in K-W.

Local Criteria	Proposed Policies and Strategies	Targets and Measures (in progress)	Criteria Addressed in Platform	Related Platform Items
1 - ADEQUATE INCOME	<p>Increase assistance levels</p> <p>Short term (2009) - \$100/month increase to all single adult recipients (not to paid for by decreasing other benefits)</p> <p>Increase minimum wage</p> <p>Labour laws enforced</p>	<p>Social Assistance Rates: all recipients out of deep poverty (min 80% of the Ontario Low Income Measure) -- indexed</p> <p>Minimum wage: min 10% above Low Income Measure so that all full-time, full-year workers earn income bringing them above the poverty line -- indexed</p> <p>Living wages</p>	<p><i>Introduce our second five-year Poverty Reduction Strategy</i></p> <p>TRANSFORMING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND PROVIDING BETTER SUPPORT. Building on the down payment in the 2013 Budget, we will increase Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates for people with disabilities by one per cent in 2014-15. We will also increase the benefit for single Ontario Works clients without children, giving them a total benefit increase of \$30 per month in 2014, for a total increase over two years of \$50.</p> <p><i>Increase the minimum wage to \$11 on June 1, 2014 and index it to inflation after that</i></p> <p>INITIATIVES TO HELP MAKE THE COST OF EVERYDAY LIVING MORE AFFORDABLE.</p>	<p>The ORPP will ensure Ontarians have a secure and predictable income in retirement. Someone earning \$90,000 and working for 40 years would get an annual ORPP benefit of approximately \$12,815 in retirement for life. That's on top of all other benefits, including the CPP, and could double the retirement benefits that person receives.</p>

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<p>2 - SUPPORT TO ALL LOW-INCOME PEOPLE FOR A RANGE OF NEEDS</p>	<p>Child Benefit – increase annual maximum</p> <p>Child Benefit and Social Assistance End dollar-for-dollar deductions of child support from the benefits of single parents receiving OW and ODSP</p> <p>Family Members of people on ODSP – do not freeze their social assistance rates</p> <p>Discretionary Benefits – raise cap to \$15 per person</p> <p>Reinstate CSMUB funding level for CHPI</p> <p>Investment in Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program</p> <p>Universal Health, Drug prescription and Dental program</p> <p>Raise income threshold for legal aid assistance eligibility.</p> <p>Tuition reductions – reinstitute post-secondary grant program to reduce student debt loads</p> <p>Transportation subsidies.</p> <p>Support public internet access, support and training.</p>		<p>Continue the 30% Off Tuition Grant</p> <p><i>Increase the Ontario Child Benefit to \$1,310, and index it to inflation after that</i></p> <p>Investing in local solutions to reduce poverty: We will invest \$50 million over five years to partner with communities that are developing local responses to reduce poverty.</p> <p>Expanding access to free nutritious breakfasts: We will expand the Student Nutrition Program, investing \$58 million over five years, to expand our student nutrition program, making it available at 340 more schools for an additional 56,000 high-needs children. We will build on this expansion, with a goal of providing free nutritious breakfasts in all schools.</p> <p>Introducing children’s health benefits: We will introduce health benefits for children living in low-income families, starting with prescription drugs, vision care, mental health services and assistive devices.</p> <p>Expanding children’s dental benefits:</p>	<p>LOWERING AUTO INSURANCE RATES.</p> <p>ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE.</p> <p>We will promote Aboriginal education and business capacity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing educational outcomes for Aboriginal students. - Investing \$25 million over three years to create the Aboriginal Economic Development Fund to promote aboriginal business. - Increasing the amount available for loan guarantees for renewable energy projects to \$650 million. This will encourage the development of projects that will pay dividends into the future and contribute to sustainable and clean energy generation in the province.

			<p>We will expand the Healthy Smiles program to cover dental care for an additional 70,000 children, bringing the total number of children covered to 460,000.</p> <p>Increasing funding for housing: We will increase annual funding for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative by \$42 million in our first year, bringing total funding to \$294 million. We will also recommit to the Investment in Affordable Housing program for a five-year, \$400 million investment.</p> <p>INCREASING SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES. We will eliminate waiting lists for the Passport program within four years, and eliminate waiting lists for the Special Services at Home program within two years. We will invest \$810 million over three years to provide better services for people with developmental disabilities and more support for caregivers and their families.</p> <p>INCREASING SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN’S TREATMENT CENTRES. We will help children with special needs or in need of rehabilitation services by permanently increasing funding for Children’s Treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investing \$2.5 million over three years in an Urban Aboriginal Action Plan to help Aboriginal people in our cities find economic opportunities and access social services. <p>Cap or cut hospital parking fees for those who must visit the hospital frequently Eliminate the debt retirement charge on residential hydro bills Increase support for Children’s Treatment Centres and developmental services</p> <p>LOWERING ELECTRICITY RATES.</p> <p>Part of our investment is a \$200 million investment to support professionalization and wages for front-line workers.</p> <p>Develop and support school-community hubs to promote efficient use of public assets and ensure more viable schools can stay open.</p>
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3 - DIGNITY AND RESPECT IN SERVICE DELIVERY	People are treated with dignity and respect when receiving assistance.	Collect feedback from service recipients on an ongoing basis to ask if recipients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feel heard before they apply • are supported when they apply • treated as a partner when getting assistance • feel safe when they leave assistance 		
4 - GREATER ACCESSIBILITY AND NAVIGATION OF THE SYSTEM	<p>Adequate resources for case workers to do their job - <i>Extra funding in times of any transition</i></p> <p>Provide drop ins, not only by appointment</p> <p>Relationship and trust building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well trained staff • Stable staff contacts • Timely responses • Flexibility in working with people with different needs • Meaningful follow-up <p>Provide system navigator and advocacy support</p> <p>Improve the appeal process</p>	Collect feedback from service recipients on an ongoing basis External reviews of forms and processes Eliminate administration errors that impact recipients e.g. lost documents; overpayments.		

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<p>5 - FAIR LABOUR MARKET, PRACTICES AND EMPLOYMENT POLICIES</p>	<p>Training, job readiness and retention strategies to increase labour market flexibility and support for social assistance recipients e.g. flexible work hours for people with different abilities and on-the- job support</p> <p>Monitoring and enforcement of labor standards</p> <p>Regulating temporary employment agencies</p> <p>Support union organizing and collective bargaining</p> <p>Policies for social assistance recipient volunteer participation to recognize non-employment related contributions for those unable to participate in the workforce</p>	<p>Self-reported experience of social assistance recipients and those who have transitioned to work and are no longer receiving assistance</p>	<p>Complete the implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten</p> <p>Creating more employment opportunities for people with disabilities: We will partner with business and commit \$30 million over two years to help more people with disabilities achieve their maximum employment potential.</p> <p><i>Provide wage increases to child care workers outside the public school system</i></p>	<p>Extending the Youth Jobs Strategy: We will add \$38 million to the Youth Employment Fund in 2014-15 and extend the Strategy to September 2015, placing 30,000 young people in jobs that will move them into future careers.</p> <p>INCREASING APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAINING.</p> <p>INVESTING IN JOB-CREATING BUSINESSES.</p> <p>Introduce Experience Ontario, a nine-month paid community work and service program to support graduating high school students before they go on to apprenticeship, work, or postsecondary education</p>

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<p>6 - INTEGRATED SERVICE SYSTEMS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT</p>	<p>Integrated plans and programs- Cross ministry and inter-government harmonization</p>	<p>External review of policies, programs, budgets</p> <p>Adequate funding levels based on local needs</p> <p>Services are not reduced.</p> <p>Income supports reduce income inequality</p> <p>Integrated policies to guide investments that help people find and keep decent work</p>		<p>IMPROVING WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW CANADIANS. We would help newcomers break down the employment barriers they face by:</p> <p>Calling on the federal government to simplify and streamline the Foreign Credential Recognition Program, so that new Canadians trained elsewhere can return to their careers in our country. Introducing the Ontario Immigration Act and working with the federal government to expand the Provincial Nominee Program. We want more input into the process of immigration into Ontario, because the federal government is too far removed from the job opportunities we know exist in Ontario.</p> <p>Advocate for national drug insurance</p>

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7 - UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE SYSTEM	Plans, policies and programs do not reflect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative and judgemental attitudes • Emphasis on fraud prevention 			
8 - ACCESSIBLE AND MEANINGFUL WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING	<p>Inform people in an accessible and timely manner about issues that are important – adapt processes and materials to reach a wider diversity of voices.</p> <p>Take people’s viewpoints into consideration on an ongoing basis and listen to their input.</p> <p>Provide consultation reports that include follow up on action and timelines</p> <p>Take pace into consideration in two ways – not too slow and not to fast:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Timely follow up on past issues such as raising social assistance rates or minimum wage and not dragging with unnecessary consultations, and 2) Sufficient time and support provided for understanding of new or more technical issues such as the functioning of a government Minimum Wage Advisory Panel etc. <p>Invest in local mediating bodies (such as community based social planning councils) to engage and facilitate participation.</p>			

