

K-W VOTES

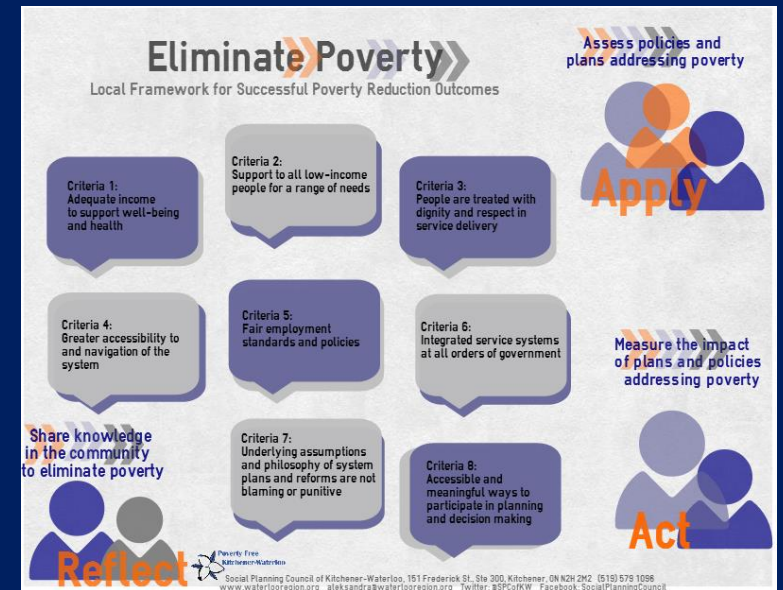
Provincial Election - June 12th

ONTARIO
NDP NPD

Party Platforms



Social Issues & Poverty Elimination



The Ontario NDP 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>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>		
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2 - SUPPORT TO ALL LOW-INCOME PEOPLE FOR A RANGE OF NEEDS	<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>Freeze post-secondary tuition and make student loans interest-free</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate tuition fees will be frozen at 2014 levels. • Provincial student loans will be made interest-free. <p>Expand dental benefits for children from low-income households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will ensure that more low-income children have access to dental care. • With our financial commitment, coverage will be expanded to 100,000 low-income children. 	<p>We will reduce hydro costs by – removing HST.</p> <p>Help families install solar panels and make energy efficient retrofits</p> <p>Prevent unfair price increases for natural gas consumers</p> <p>Bring better public transit to cities and towns across Ontario</p> <p>Reduce auto insurance by 15%</p> <p>Open new 24-hour Family Health Clinics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 new family health clinics will be

	<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>built across the province with the capacity to serve at least 250,000 people, cutting the number of Ontarians without access to primary care by 25%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Health Clinics will give patients an alternative to ERs for after-hours medical needs. Support families caring for the ill or elderly with a Caregiver Tax Credit • Anyone who is a primary caregiver for someone needing help with basic functions like bathing, meal preparation, and receiving medical care will receive a credit of \$1,275 per year. • This credit is fully refundable and is in addition to supports available through other programs. <p>Create an “Open Schools” fund to prevent school closures and extend after-hour programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools boards will be able to apply for funding to help keep schools threatened with closure open, make necessary renovations, and to repurpose under-utilized space for other community uses. • Schools can also apply to the fund to increase free and low-fee access for non-profit groups to use school space during evenings and weekends.
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3 - DIGNITY AND RESPECT IN SERVICE DELIVERY	People are treated with dignity and respect when receiving help.	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 		
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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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5 - FAIR LABOUR MARKET, PRACTICES AND EMPLOYMENT POLICIES	<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>Invest in safe and affordable childcare spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will provide critical relief funding to help childcare providers and parents in our first year in government. • Our plan will also provide ongoing funding to prevent the closure of childcare centres in 18 communities. 	<p>Invest in re-training programs for workers over the age of 55</p>

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6 - INTEGRATED SERVICE SYSTEMS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT	Integrated plans and programs- Cross ministry and inter-government harmonization	External review of policies, programs, budgets Adequate funding levels based on local needs Services are not reduced. Income supports reduce income inequality Integrated policies to guide investments that help people find and keep decent work		
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 			

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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>			