

K-W VOTES

Provincial Election - June 12th

ONTARIO  PC

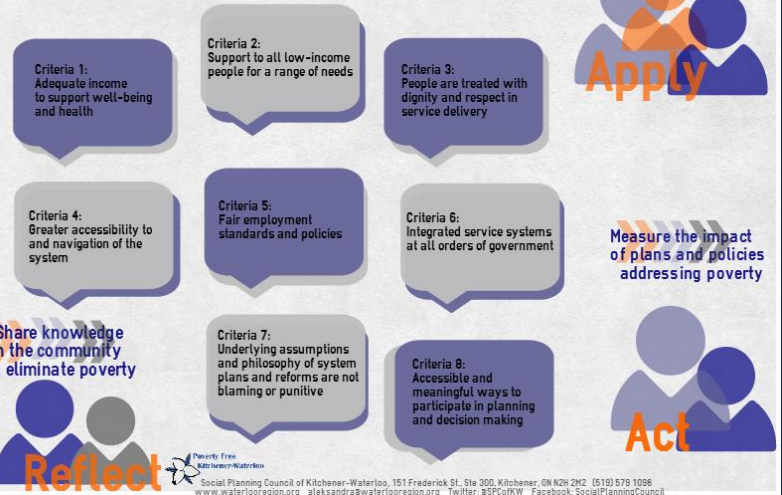
Party Platforms



Social Issues & Poverty Elimination

Eliminate Poverty

Local Framework for Successful Poverty Reduction Outcomes



The Progressive Conservative 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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<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>ACTION – MAKE ENERGY AFFORDABLE</p> <p>ACTION – REDUCE THE TAX BURDEN ON ONTARIO FAMILIES Leave a little bit more money in the family budget at the end of each month by lowering the income tax burden. The taxes families pay are too high and those high taxes hurt our economy because they penalize effort. Our middle-class taxpayers are subject to tax rates that rise dramatically as they earn more, taking away money they need to support their families. Once we have balanced the budget, one of our top priorities will be to reduce income taxes to continue boosting the economy and reward the shared sacrifice we are asking all Ontarians to make as we balance the budget.</p> <p>ACTION – GENERATE PUBLIC DOLLARS FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD Allow Ontario and Canadian pension plans to invest in government-owned businesses like the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation to raise the billions of dollars we need to improve and expand Ontario’s subways and highways. The pension plans of our teachers, municipal, energy and health care workers, for</p>

	<p>Transportation subsidies.</p> <p>Support public internet access, support and training.</p>			<p>example, invest in businesses like these all over the world on behalf of their members. We think they should invest in Ontario, too. The government should also sell off its extra land and unused buildings and move some government departments and agencies out of downtown Toronto so that job creators can put these properties to more productive use. We will use the money we raise to solve urban and rural Ontario's pressing transportation needs through an Ontario Transportation Trust that will clearly show what money comes in, and where it goes. Only government will pay for the infrastructure our economy needs to succeed. We will do that without raising taxes.</p> <p>ACTION – GET GTA TRAFFIC MOVING AGAIN</p> <p>ACTION – GIVE OUR COLLEGES A BIGGER ROLE</p> <p>Expand the role of community colleges. They offer an excellent education that prepares students for real-life jobs. In Ontario, there is a disconnect between the skills of workers and the needs of the economy. That's why we have good jobs unfilled and good people unable to find work. We will encourage more students to attend our high-results colleges, and make that easier by offering more</p>
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				<p>college courses that also count as high school credits. We will also make it simpler for students to transfer from college to university, and vice versa, while getting credit for the work they have already done. We believe the way to solve that problem for the future is with an education system that makes the next generation job ready. Our community colleges are focused directly on that goal.</p> <p>ACTION – STRENGTHEN THE LINK BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND JOBS Deliver the best academic preparation for the next generation of workers, leaders and innovators who will create and fill jobs in a growing Ontario economy. That will require a renewed emphasis on the quality and quantity of university teaching, and on the importance of critical thinking. It also means a strong focus on science, technology, engineering, business and math. Evidence shows that top students are attracted to studies in these subjects, and they are the same disciplines that drive economic growth. We will work with our universities to provide more spaces for students in these vital areas of study – to help build a culture of entrepreneurship in Ontario. We will also make sure that no Ontario student is denied access</p>
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				<p>because of a lack of money. We want our universities to offer access, produce excellence and create job-ready students.</p> <p>ACTION – PUT A NEW FOCUS ON CHRONIC CARE</p> <p>Build a health care system that treats chronic diseases, ones that patients have to live with over long periods of time, as the leading health challenge of our time, not as an afterthought in a system designed around short term stays in the hospital. To help manage chronic conditions – like diabetes, heart disease or Alzheimer’s – we will create chronic care centres of excellence and we will increase home-based care. We will ensure that all of the doctors and nurses caring for people with serious chronic conditions work together to develop comprehensive care plans for those patients. For patients with the highest needs we will assign them a dedicated care navigator to ensure they get the care they need when they need it, and that all of their sources of care work together. This person will be a frontline caregiver such as a nurse, not a bureaucrat. Both compassion and common sense say we must do more for people with chronic health problems.</p>
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			<p>ACTION – MOVE HEALTH CLOSER TO HOME Deliver care closer to home by expanding home care and long– term care availability, and by promoting more types of care in the home. Update the scope of practice for pharmacists, nurse practitioners and other professionals, to allow treatment where it is most convenient and beneficial for patients, particularly seniors. Home care that is more easily available and straightforward to receive will mean that people aren’t forced into long-term care before they need it or into a hospital unnecessarily, and that a bed will be there for people who require it. We want seniors to be as healthy as they can be and to stay in their homes for as long as they can.</p> <p>ACTION – MAKE MENTAL HEALTH CARE A PRIORITY Stop treating mental health as an afterthought in the system. Mental health care is a fundamental part of health care. It cannot be treated exclusively as a social service, as if a disorder in the brain is a less legitimate health problem than one in any other part of the body. Good mental health is just as important as good physical health. Mental health issues affect people in every part of society, with huge economic and</p>
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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 		ACTION – CREATE A 21ST CENTURY CIVIL SERVICE Refocus government on jobs that only government can and should do. This will mean a smaller, more vibrant civil service, one that sets clear goals, measures outcomes and rewards excellence and high performance. We want the best and brightest Ontarians to help us rebuild our province.
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>	<p>Collect feedback from service recipients on an ongoing basis</p> <p>External reviews of forms and processes</p> <p>Eliminate administration errors that impact recipients e.g. lost documents; overpayments</p>		Eliminate hundreds of unnecessary rules that bog down the social assistance system, so that it is easy to understand and focuses on helping people find work.

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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>ACTION – INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES IN SKILLED TRADES Do away with cumbersome and outdated apprenticeship rules that limit the number of job opportunities in the trades. We will make it easier for people to get jobs as electricians, plumbers or precision machine operators by making trades training a community college course like any other. We will abolish the College of Trades, a new bureaucracy that creates red tape and new taxes that actually stop many young people from joining the trades. By removing these barriers, our plan will connect workers with 200,000 opportunities in the skilled trades, jobs our young people and our economy desperately need.</p> <p>ACTION – REPLACE CORPORATE WELFARE WITH LOWER TAXES Stimulate job creation by replacing corporate welfare programs that benefit only a few firms with a business tax reduction that treats all businesses equally. We will reduce Ontario’s business taxes by 30% – making them the lowest in North America. We can afford to lower taxes for all employers by ending the confusing array of government handouts that favour well-connected businesses and cost taxpayers</p>

			<p>up to \$2 billion a year. These programs don't create sustainable jobs. Our future growth relies on entrepreneurs who take risks, not corporations that rely on government support.</p> <p>ACTION – SAVE SMALL BUSINESSES TIME AND MONEY Eliminate rules and regulations that don't benefit consumers, workers or employers, reducing the total by one-third over three years. Government regulation should focus on a few important priorities like the environment, public safety and consumer protection. Government shouldn't meddle in every aspect of our lives and our businesses. Ontario companies spend \$11 billion a year complying with government regulations. Employers continually tell us this burden is impeding Ontario's progress, particularly for small businesses, the ones that don't have HR and legal departments and can't afford experts to help them figure out how it all works. We</p> <p>ACTION – COMPETE FOR SKILLED IMMIGRANTS Concentrate on proven initiatives that match job-ready new Canadians with skills-hungry Ontario employers. People who are new to Ontario should enjoy every opportunity to study, work and</p>
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			<p>prosper. Currently there are shortages of qualified workers in some professions, and employers cannot find local residents to fill these positions. Other provinces are successfully taking advantage of federal programs to strengthen their economies, attract entrepreneurs and fill gaps. Ontario should be the destination of choice for the world's best and brightest by convincing those who have completed their post-secondary education in Canada, or who have worked full-time for over a year, to settle in Ontario on an accelerated pathway to citizenship. More immigrants will invest their future here when they see Ontario has again become the province of opportunity.</p> <p>ACTION – HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SUCCEED</p> <p>Move quickly to connect employers to people with disabilities to develop more opportunities and to reduce barriers that exist in the workplace. Expand post-secondary education for people with disabilities, so they can develop job-ready skills. When it comes to people with disabilities, we have a moral and an economic responsibility to focus on their abilities and not just on what holds them back. Our family members, friends and neighbours who have a disability of some kind are a wellspring of talent and</p>
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				<p>determination. We must seize this opportunity – for them and for our economy. Our plan is founded on the belief that every Ontarian has the right to lead his or her life to its fullest potential.</p> <p>ACTION – CREATE JOBS AND GROWTH IN NORTHERN AND RURAL ONTARIO ACTION – RE-BALANCE LABOUR LAWS Change Ontario’s labour laws to give individual union members more control and a bigger say. We will give all individuals the right to a secret ballot in certification votes. We will introduce paycheque protection so that workers are not forced to pay fees towards political causes they don’t support. Union leaders will be required to be transparent and open with their financial information, just as companies and charities are. This will enable union members to know exactly how their dues are being spent. This reasonable and balanced approach will make union leaders more accountable to their membership and make Ontario a more attractive and productive place to do business.</p> <p>End the government monopoly in providing workplace insurance to employers.</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 		

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<p>7 - UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE SYSTEM</p>	<p>Plans, policies and programs do not reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative and judgemental attitudes e.g. stereotypes of lazy welfare bums • Emphasis on fraud prevention 		<p>ACTION – HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SUCCEED</p> <p>Move quickly to connect employers to people with disabilities to develop more opportunities and to reduce barriers that exist in the workplace. Expand post-secondary education for people with disabilities, so they can develop job-ready skills. When it comes to people with disabilities, we have a moral and an economic responsibility to focus on their abilities and not just on what holds them back. Our family members, friends and neighbours who have a disability of some kind are a wellspring of talent and determination. We must seize this opportunity – for them and for our economy. Our plan is founded on the belief that every Ontarian has the right to lead his or her life to its fullest potential.</p>	<p>ACTION – REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING</p> <p>Review every government program, keeping those that work, fixing those that require it and cancelling the ones that don't give taxpayers good value. This is the key step to a smaller, more focused government, one that we can afford. Over the course of our two-year balanced budget plan, total spending on government programs will go down. Because health care is the most important service government provides, health care spending will continue to grow predictably so that you receive excellent care where and when you need it.</p> <p>ACTION – CREATE A 21ST CENTURY CIVIL SERVICE</p> <p>Refocus government on jobs that only government can and should do. This will mean a smaller, more vibrant civil service, one that sets clear goals, measures outcomes and rewards excellence and high performance. We want the best and brightest Ontarians to help us rebuild our province. Right now, only current government employees are allowed to apply for many government jobs. This system is unfair and ineffective. That's</p>

				<p>why we will make as many new or vacant government jobs as possible open to competition, so that every Ontarian has a fair chance at them</p> <p><i>ACTION – ENCOURAGE BETTER SERVICE THROUGH COMPETITION</i></p> <p>Get the best price for services government provides you. For as many government services as possible, we will open contracts to competition, to get the best deal for taxpayers. If you can find the service in the phone book, why should government automatically pay for a unionized government worker to do it? Things like building maintenance, IT support and food service should be open to competition. This will mean better service, better value, more innovative ways to deliver service and a more dynamic government.</p>
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<p>8 - ACCESSIBLE AND MEANINGFUL WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING</p>	<p>Inform people in an accessible and timely manner about issues that are important – modify processes 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 which include follow up on action</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 Advisory Panel on Minimum Wage, etc. <p>Invest in local mediating bodies (such as community based social planning councils) to engage and facilitate participation.</p>			

