

**CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE  
AND LIVEABLE  
COMMUNITIES**

WHAT **LEADERSHIP** IS.

**KATHLEEN WYNNE'S PLAN FOR ONTARIO**

*Kathleen*





## CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE AND LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

### **Our 10-Year Goals:**

*By 2025, Ontario families will have access to healthy ways to travel and abundant green spaces, clean lakes and rivers and clean beaches. The loss of wetlands and farmland will be reversed. Ontario's energy system will be a North American leader in efficiency and conservation by reducing average household energy use by 15 per cent.*

## CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE AND LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

**STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS INVESTING IN CLEAN, HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.** With our growing population, it is more important than ever to make sure we are **protecting our vital resources like clean water, clean air, farmland and green spaces.** We need to grow in a way that sustains healthy lifestyles and a healthy environment.

**We choose to lead.** A Kathleen Wynne Government will stand up for Ontarians and make sure we have access to healthy communities and a healthy environment. We will build **smart, liveable communities** where people have access to safe cycling options, transit, trails and green spaces. We will invest in creating **vibrant urban centres**, while also working to **preserve farmland and ecologically sensitive lands**, and **protect our precious Great Lakes and other waters.** We will also continue to **show leadership in tackling climate change**, and give homeowners and businesses better tools to save energy.

**The time to lead is now.** By making the right choices, we will defend our right to clean air, clean water and healthy communities. **This is our chance. This is the choice.**

As part of our 10-year plan for Ontario, a Kathleen Wynne Government will:

- > Build communities that are stronger, safer, and more enjoyable to live in.
- > Clean up and protect our air, water and soil.
- > Make smart investments to ensure that agriculture and farming remains a leading contributor to the Province's economic health and is a viable career choice for young people.

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE STRONGER, SAFER, AND MORE ENJOYABLE TO LIVE IN

**STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS CREATING HEALTHY, SAFE COMMUNITIES WHERE ONTARIO FAMILIES CAN LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY.** We believe families should have more protected green space and opportunities to enjoy them. And, we believe families should have healthy ways to get around, vibrant downtown areas and places to gather.

Building on our success to date, we will encourage **smarter growth** and develop and support **Community Hubs**. We will also take steps to ensure our **communities are safer** by reducing handgun crime and its causes.

**A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL HELP BUILD COMMUNITIES THAT ARE STRONGER, SAFER, AND MORE ENJOYABLE TO LIVE IN BY:**

- ✔ **ENCOURAGING SMARTER GROWTH.** We have introduced award-winning land use planning legislation that encourages smart growth and protects green spaces for future generations. We know that communities and citizens need more support to determine how their neighbourhoods grow. We will therefore introduce legislation to:
  - » Ensure new residential development projects provide more revenue for transit.
  - » Enhance respect and protection for local official plans when municipalities do comprehensive, up-front planning and zoning.
  - » Reduce the number of development applications that go to the Ontario Municipal Board.
  - » Ensure citizens are consulted sooner and that there is more citizen input into the land use planning process.
  - » Require municipalities to work with school boards to develop Park Plans to protect green space in growing communities.
  
- ✔ **PROMOTING WOOD CONSTRUCTION.** We will change the building code to allow six-storey wood-frame buildings to encourage the construction of mid-rise, mixed use buildings.
  
- ✔ **INVESTING IN CYCLING EXPANSION.** Cycling means leisure, transportation, tourism opportunities and better health to millions of people. We will support more and safer cycling by:
  - › Implementing the province's first-ever cycling strategy, CycleOn, through an investment of \$25 million over three years.
  - › Providing, for the first time, funding to municipalities to access dedicated cycling infrastructure funding, allowing up to 400 new kilometres of bike lanes to be added province-wide over three years.
  - › Designating and building 135 km of paved shoulders on provincial roads and highways over the next three years.
  - › Introducing a law to mandate that vehicles give one metre of space to cyclists they are passing.

- ✓ **EXPANDING TRAILS.** We will support the expansion of Ontario's trail network by removing barriers to the creation of new trails on private and public lands, including measures to reduce landowner liability.
- ✓ **DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HUBS.** We will develop and support school-community hubs to promote efficient use of public assets, build better ties between schools and municipalities and other community organizations, and ensure that more viable schools are able to remain open.
- ✓ **REVITALIZING ONTARIO PLACE.** We will support a revitalized vision of Ontario Place, a vision that does not include condos, but that does create a dynamic destination for Ontario families and tourists, featuring our very best in arts, culture and recreation.
- ✓ **REDUCING HANDGUN CRIME.** We will take on handgun crime and its causes by continuing to fund our Youth Action Plan, which supports communities that are fighting the root causes of violence and creating alternatives for youth at risk. We will also propose new measures to help law enforcement keep guns out of Ontario and get handguns off the streets. We renew our call for the federal government to ban handguns.

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## CLEANING UP AND PROTECTING OUR AIR, WATER AND SOIL

**STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS CLEANING UP AND PROTECTING OUR AIR, WATER AND SOIL.** We will stand up and lead when it comes to protecting the environment. Climate change is already affecting our environment, our economy, our health and our quality of life. If we choose to do nothing, the consequences will be devastating. We must continue to clean up and protect our air, water and soil.

We will continue to **tackle climate change** by investing in better buildings, better transit, cleaner fuels and more coal reductions. We will also protect more land by **expanding the Greenbelt** over the next six years. And, we will help landowners **protect prime agricultural land** close to major centres and lead the **protection of the Great Lakes**.

### A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL CLEAN UP AND PROTECT OUR AIR, WATER AND SOIL BY:

- ✓ **PROTECTING MORE LAND.** We will:
  - › **Enhance the Greenbelt.** As part of our review of the Greenbelt, we will work with communities and expand the outer boundary of the Greenbelt over the

next six years, using established processes continuing our legacy of protecting Ontario's irreplaceable ecological and agricultural lands from urban sprawl. We will ensure that the *Greenbelt Act* is effectively meeting the goal of protecting ecologically sensitive and agricultural lands.

*We will work with communities and expand the outer boundary of the Greenbelt over the next six years.*

- › **Promote urban forestry.** We will work with municipalities and our other partners to promote urban forestry and plant one million trees, as part of our commitment to plant 50 million trees province-wide.
- › **Create a Farms Forever Program.** To help land owners protect prime agricultural land close to major urban centres, we will create a Farms Forever Program. This will help support the local sourcing of food and strengthen Ontario's strong agri-food sector. We recognize that young farmers need support and we will use Farms Forever and other policies to ensure that farming is a lifestyle that can be enjoyed by generations to come.

✔ **HELPING RATEPAYERS CONSERVE ENERGY.** We will give energy rate-payers more tools to lower their bills, depending on the time of day they use electricity. We will help them pay for energy-saving technology by stretching the payments for new investments on their energy bills over a number of years.

✔ **PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES.** We will tackle algae problems in the Great Lakes. By continuing to work with agricultural sector, we will develop financial incentives to reduce nutrient runoff. We will work with municipalities to improve sewage and stormwater management. We will also work with Ontario Parks to make Great Lakes beaches cleaner and safer.

✔ **TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE.** In the absence of meaningful action at the federal level, Ontario will continue to take the lead, building on our historic closure of dirty coal-fired power plants. We will meet our 2014 and 2020 Greenhouse Gas Emission targets through a variety of measures, including:

- › **Better transit:** Our 10-year, \$29 billion transportation and transit build-out will relieve gridlock, so cars aren't stuck in traffic, unnecessarily emitting greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- › **Better buildings:** Our conservation-first agenda will provide tools for homeowners and building owners to reduce their energy needs, including natural gas. We will also make sure new buildings are as energy efficient as possible.
- › **Closing the gap:** In 2015, we will review progress toward meeting our 2020 target and develop a clear plan to get there.
- › **Cleaner fuels:** We are reducing greenhouse gas emissions from trucks, trains and other diesel-powered vehicles with new rules for clean bio-diesel that are the toughest in Canada.
- › **More coal reductions:** New alternative fuels rules will help Ontario's big, energy-intensive industries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. These industries are the largest burners of GHG-heavy coal in Ontario, now that the

Province has shut down the last coal-fired power plant. Closing the power plants was the largest climate change action ever taken in North America.

- ✔ **FUNDING THE OTTAWA RIVER ACTION PLAN.** We will contribute the provincial share of funding required to ensure the Ottawa River is clean and its beaches are safe for swimming.
- ✔ **INVESTING IN WATER TECHNOLOGY.** We will continue to invest in approaches and solutions to minimize the need for costly infrastructure and its ongoing maintenance and operation, including innovative water technology solutions and/or approaches that will ultimately save money for municipal, provincial and federal governments. We will invest \$30 million over the next 10 years to keep the Walkerton Clean Water Centre on the cutting edge of clean water training and research.

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## ENSURING AGRICULTURE AND FARMING REMAIN A LEADING CONTRIBUTOR TO THE PROVINCE'S ECONOMIC HEALTH AND A VIABLE CAREER CHOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS PROTECTING ONTARIO'S RICH TRADITION IN AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD.** These sectors contribute positively to our economy, and have also been the livelihood for many generations of Ontarians.

We will continue making smart investments to ensure that agriculture and farming remain a leading contributor to the Province's economic health and a viable career choice for young people. We will support risk management programs, invest in and promote innovative local food projects, and create a Farms Forever Program. We will provide support to the food processing industry in Ontario to help us double exports and jobs in this sector by 2020. And, we will build a more sustainable horseracing industry in Ontario to support jobs and local economies.

**A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT AGRICULTURE AND FARMING REMAINS A LEADING CONTRIBUTOR TO THE PROVINCE'S ECONOMIC HEALTH AND A VIABLE CAREER CHOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BY:**

- ✔ **SUPPORTING RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.** We will continue to work with the federal government on business risk management through the Growing Forward 2 initiative, and will also support farmers through the pro-

vincial Risk Management Program (RMP). Starting this year, producer supports were further supplemented by \$22.8 million in premiums made available by producers participating in RMP.

- ✔ **INVESTING IN AND PROMOTING LOCAL FOOD.** We will invest \$30 million over the next three years to encourage innovative local food projects that celebrate the rich diversity of foods produced and made in Ontario, which, in turn, feed local economies and help communities grow and thrive.
  - ✔ **SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE HORSERACING INDUSTRY.** We are building a sustainable, more customer-responsive industry in Ontario, with an investment of up to \$500 million over the next five years.
  - ✔ **PROVIDING INDUSTRY SUPPORT.** We will commit \$40 million annually to a Food Processing Investment category under the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to support investments in food and beverage manufacturing in Ontario, which will help us double exports and jobs in this sector by 2020.
  - ✔ As described earlier, we will create a **FARMS FOREVER PROGRAM** and increase access to natural gas.
  - ✔ **HELPING TO PROTECT POLLINATORS AND BEES.** We have helped implement strategies designed to mitigate the impacts of neonicotinoid-treated seeds on bee colonies. In addition to these ongoing activities, we will implement an insurance program to help provincial beekeepers recover acute bee losses that may occur this spring.
  - ✔ **SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION IN THE NORTH.** There are many agricultural opportunities emerging in the north, including cash cropping, dairy and beef. We will explore further opportunities to develop agriculture in the north, including making Crown land available to farmers who commit to bringing the land into agricultural production.
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