

**MAKING GOVERNMENT  
WORK FOR ONTARIANS**

WHAT **LEADERSHIP** IS.

**KATHLEEN WYNNE'S PLAN FOR ONTARIO**

*Kathleen*

**LIBERAL**  
ONTARIO





## MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR ONTARIANS

**Our Goal:**

*To build a more transparent, accountable, open and responsible government that works for Ontarians.*

## MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR ONTARIANS

**STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS MAKING ONTARIO MORE OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC, AND RESTORING TRUST IN GOVERNMENT AND IN THE SERVICES PEOPLE RELY ON.** We believe that the only real solutions are solutions that change our institutions; solutions that empower people to hold their leaders to account.

**We choose to lead.** A Kathleen Wynne government will create a **more democratic Ontario, with more responsive government services.** We will **improve protection for families and consumers, and manage our finances responsibly.**

**The time to lead is now.** By making the right choices, we can build a more transparent, open and responsible government that works for all Ontarians. **This is our chance. This is the choice.**

## MAKING ONTARIO MORE DEMOCRATIC AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES MORE RESPONSIVE

**STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS GOVERNMENTS DOING MORE TO RE-GAIN THE PUBLIC'S TRUST.** Governments need to meet citizens' expectations for increased **transparency and accountability.** We need to adopt **modern tools and technologies** of engagement so that citizens can have a **greater voice** in the decision-making process.

### A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE ONTARIO MORE DEMOCRATIC AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES MORE RESPONSIVE BY:

- ✔ **RE-INTRODUCING LEGISLATION.** We will re-introduce all government bills that were before the Legislature prior to the election call, and aim to pass all of them within the first two years of our mandate.
- ✔ **OPENING UP GOVERNMENT.** We will continue to open up government. We will increase transparency and help the public become more involved in decision-making. We will re-introduce the *Accountability Act* and we will move on the recommendations of the Open Government Panel. We will:
  - › Improve disclosure of MPP expenses
  - › Increase oversight by the Ontario Ombudsman
  - › Introduce an Open Data Directive that makes government data open by default

- › Introduce a new online platform to enable increased public input into Government decisions

✔ **ALLOWING CHOICE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.** We will give municipalities the option of using ranked ballots as an alternative to first-past-the-post in their own elections.

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✔ **ENGAGING OUR YOUTH.** We will introduce voter registration in high schools to help students prepare for the responsibilities of citizenship and replace the Grade 10 Civics curriculum with a more hands-on course that includes a community improvement project.

✔ **IMPROVING ONTARIO'S LIQUOR AND ELECTRICITY AGENCIES.** We will improve Hydro One, Ontario Power Generation and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario so that they are more responsive to customers and provide more income to support public services. We have created a Premier's Advisory Council to examine how to get the most out of key government assets to get better returns and revenues for Ontarians.

## PROTECTING CONSUMERS AND FAMILIES

**STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS PROTECTING ONTARIO CONSUMERS AND FAMILIES.** Our ambitious consumer-protection agenda is addressing concerns that affect consumers every day. Our goal is to help people make **informed choices, spend wisely and protect their hard-earned money.** In turn, consumer confidence promotes a stronger economy.

### A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL BETTER PROTECT CONSUMERS AND FAMILIES BY:

✔ **INTRODUCING A CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS.** To protect and support consumers, we will bring in a Consumer Bill of Rights. We will provide new protections against identity theft and credit rating agency abuses. The legislation will also enhance oversight of moving companies, home renovation services, and the sale of consumer debts to debt-collection agencies. We will also introduce a professional designation for financial planning, in consultation with consumers and the industry.

*We will bring in a Consumer Bill of Rights.*

✔ **PROTECTING CONDO OWNERS.** We will improve the condo experience by licensing condo managers and allowing condo owners to resolve disputes more quickly outside the court system. We will modernize the rules relating to

condo reserve funds, making the management of these funds more transparent, rigorous, and better able to address an expanded scope of renovations, such as those related to accessibility and energy efficiency.

✔ **ENSURING FAIR PAY FOR CONTRACTORS.** We will modernize the *Construction Lien Act* to ensure that it reflects the reality of today's construction industry, and we will introduce legislation to address payment risk within the sector, ensuring that companies are paid in a timely way for the work they have done.

✔ **REFORMING FAMILY LAW.** We will build on the wide and sweeping consensus among experts and practitioners of family law to undertake a fundamental renewal of our family law system that puts families first. We believe a courtroom is not the best place for the resolution of family law disputes. We will:

- › Focus on creating a holistic system that promotes family health and access to justice.
- › Triage cases at the initial stage to ensure that families that require additional support due to domestic violence, mental health or other concerns are provided with the help they need. Others cases, wherever appropriate, will be directed towards mediation.
- › In collaboration with the judiciary, develop a harmonized family court system in Ontario.
- › Wherever possible, work to ensure that one judge oversees a case from beginning to end.

## RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

**STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.** We are on track to beat the deficit target for the fifth year in a row, resulting in the accumulated debt being more than \$24 billion lower than it otherwise would have been, while still investing in key public services.

**We are committed to balancing the budget by 2017–18 and we will continue to maintain our target of reducing Ontario's net debt-to-GDP ratio to its pre-recession level.**

This will require some difficult choices. We will continue to carefully review spending to determine which programs should be enhanced or reduced, while transforming public services to increase efficiencies and improve outcomes.

**A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ENSURE THAT EVERY DOLLAR SPENT COUNTS BY:**

- ✔ **IMPLEMENTING THE 2014 BUDGET.** We will re-introduce the 2014 Budget.
- ✔ **COSTING ALL COMMITMENTS.** All investments in this plan are fully accounted for in the 2014 Budget.
- ✔ **BALANCING THE BUDGET.** We will balance our budget by 2017-18, but we will not sacrifice economic growth or public services to do so. We are confident our plan will help grow the economy and bring new revenues.

*We will re-introduce the 2014 Budget.*

**Ontario's Recovery Plan**

	Interim 2013-14	Plan 2014-15	Medium Term Outlook 2015-16	2016-17	Extended Outlook 2017-18
Revenue	115.7	118.9	124.5	129.4	134.8
Expense Programs	116.4	119.4	120.1	120.2	119.4
Interest on Debt	10.6	11.0	12.0	13.3	14.2
Total Expense	127.0	130.4	132.1	133.5	133.6
Surplus/(Deficit) Before Reserve	(11.3)	(11.5)	(7.7)	(4.1)	1.2
Reserve	-	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2
Surplus/(Deficit)	(11.3)	(12.5)	(8.9)	(5.3)	-

*Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.*


*Source: 2014 Ontario Budget*


- ✔ **REDUCING THE DEBT.** We will implement a plan to reduce our debt-to-GDP ratio to its pre-recession level of 27 per cent.
- ✔ **PURSUING FAIR TAXATION.** We will:


  - › Raise income taxes on the top two per cent of income tax filers, by lowering the limit on the top 13.16 per cent tax rate to those with a taxable income of \$220,000 or more. We will create a new tax bracket of 12.16 per cent for those with a taxable income between \$150,000 and \$220,000 per year. As a result, 115,000 people with taxable incomes of between \$150,000 and \$220,000 would pay one percentage point more in tax on their income in that range, paying \$425 more per year in tax on average. 105,000 people with taxable incomes of more than \$220,000 would pay \$5,500 more per year in tax, on average. At a time when income inequality is increasing and the middle class is under


stress, we are asking the top two per cent of Ontario earners to pay a bit more, to ensure the prosperity of the province.

- › Remove the small business tax deduction currently used by large businesses.
- › Increase the tax rate on aviation fuel, which is much lower than the rate for gasoline and diesel, by one cent per litre a year for four years, and provide exemptions for remote and northern areas.
- › We will increase research and development tax credits for companies that are investing more in research and development, while cutting credits for those that are cutting those investments.
- › Maintain competitive corporate tax rates, and tax credits that are working well such as those that support investment and jobs in the film, TV and interactive digital sectors.


 **SELLING REAL ESTATE THAT IS NO LONGER IN THE GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST TO OWN.** We will explore opportunities to sell properties, such as the LCBO and Ontario Power Generation headquarters and the Seaton lands in Durham region, providing a return to the province.

 **SPENDING PRUDENTLY.** We will continue to spend less per capita on government than any other province in Canada.

 **REDUCING THE NUMBER AND SIZE OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.** We will reduce the number of agencies by 30 per cent in 2015 compared to the number in 2011, and make them more accountable for the taxpayer dollars they spend. We will undertake compulsory reviews of agency mandates that will seek to determine whether or not particular agencies should be downsized, declassified, consolidated, or divested.

 **INTRODUCING A FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER:** We will introduce a Financial Accountability Officer who will provide independent analysis to MPPs on the state of the province's finances.

 **MAINTAINING SALARY FREEZES ON MPPS AND ESTABLISHING HARD CAPS ON PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVES.** We will maintain the salary freeze on Members of Provincial Parliament and establish hard caps on salaries for executives in the public sector and broader public sector.

 **ENSURING FAIR PUBLIC SECTOR PENSIONS.** We will reduce costs to taxpayers and ratepayers by working with the electricity and postsecondary sectors to make their pension plans more sustainable. We will build on the success we have had in making other plans more sustainable.

- ✓ **REVIEWING ONGOING PROGRAMS.** We will establish a committee of Ministers to continue to find savings in the province's budget, totaling \$2.25 billion over three years.
  - ✓ **CRACKING DOWN ON THE UNDERGROUND ECONOMY AND THOSE WHO EVADE TAXES.** We will aggressively pursue tax cheats and evaders, and call on the federal government to release a national strategy to combat the underground economy.
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