



publicpower:

Practical Solutions for Ontario

Howard Hampton and the

NDP

publicpower:

Ten Practical Solutions for Ontario

- Stop hydro privatization and deregulation and ensure clean, reliable public power at cost.
- Extend public home care, create 100 new Community Health Centres and cut long-term care user fees. Cancel plans for private MRI/CT clinics and privately built hospitals and put funds back into public health care.
- Keep our drinking water public and protect water from source to tap.
- Ensure every student has the opportunity to excel, guaranteed by a dedicated Education Excellence Fund that takes the politics out of education funding. No public funds for private schools.
- Immediately increase the minimum wage to \$8 an hour, prohibit scabs and treat injured workers fairly.
- Freeze rents for two years, build at least 32,000 units of affordable housing and increase shelter allowances.
- Cut tuition by 10 per cent and ensure that no student is denied a quality education or training for financial reasons.
- Lower transit fares, shorten waits and reduce gridlock with a dedicated transportation trust fund.
- Reduce child care fees to \$10 a day for 18 month to 5 year olds in non-profit, regulated child care, and create 20,000 new child care spaces.
- Protect your pension from inflation and let you take it with you from job to job.

Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions

Table of Contents

Public Health Care	11
Excellent Schools	19
Public Hydro	25
Clean Air and Water	31
Affordable Housing and Strong Communities	39
Fairness at Work and in Retirement.....	45
Affordable Tuition	51
Affordable, Quality Child Care.....	57
Safer Communities.....	61
A More Democratic and Just Ontario.....	67
Fair Taxes and a Strong Economy	73

publicpower:

Practical Solutions for Ontario

Dear Citizen,

This election is about people like you. It's about your right to choose the best future for you, your family, and your community. Your vote is your say.

It's what I call **publicpower**.

Last March I boarded the NDP's Public Power Bus and took my yearlong campaign to stop hydro privatization and deregulation to more than 100 Ontario communities. What I found was a deep concern about hydro privatization.

But I also found something else.

People everywhere are profoundly worried about the fate of our public health care system. They are worried about the air they breathe and the water they drink. They are concerned about the Conservatives' reckless disregard for our public schools.

People are worried because they've felt the impact of bad government policies where it hurts - in the pocketbook.

They have watched their hydro bills soar because of the Conservative-Liberal deregulation and privatization scheme. They pay higher user fees for their parents' long-term care while waits at hospital emergency rooms get longer. They sell chocolate bars or watch their children's teachers dip into their own pockets to pay for student supplies. Soaring rents, college and university tuition, municipal property taxes, public transit fares, Highway 407 tolls - the Conservatives have been raiding their pocketbooks for eight years.

Everywhere we turn, every bill we open, we are paying more. We play by the rules, work harder than ever and still can't get ahead.

"On the Liberal side of the ledger, their policy platform is so close to the Tories' that the two are almost indistinguishable."

- Christina Blizzard, Toronto Sun, January 5, 2003.

"The past session has been highlighted by spectacular flip-flops by both the Conservative government and opposition Liberals."

- Colin Perkel, Canadian Press, December 12, 2002.

We don't mind paying for the things we need. But people get angry when a select few benefit through an unfair advantage. When the president of Nortel walks away with millions in stock options but laid-off Nortel workers are left with nothing and people's pension savings disappear, something is wrong. When we pay more for hydro or health care and see profit-takers, Conservative consultants and Bay Street financiers leeching huge profits from public services, we know something must be done.

During this election you have a choice between two ideas.

Will the people control the vital services we cannot live without: like health care, education, electricity and water? Will these essentials be provided on an affordable and reliable basis? Will the interests of you, your family and your community come first?

Or will profit-driven corporate interests control what we value most?

Ernie Eves' Conservatives have made it clear where they stand. They ignore evidence from all over the world that privatization of public necessities doesn't work. Private health care means higher costs for you and worse care. Private water testing means Walkerton and more tragic deaths. Private hydro means higher prices and blackouts.

Number of times the Liberals voted with the Conservatives (with NDP voting against) during the last three sessions of the Legislature ——— **63**

Number of times the NDP voted with the Conservatives (with Liberals voting against) during the last three sessions of the Legislature ——— **0**

"[The Eves' Conservatives] have moved to the center and made themselves almost indistinguishable from the Liberals on a wide range of issues."

– Ian Urquhart, Toronto Star, January 18, 2003.

Dalton McGuinty's Liberals have never been clear about where they stand. They say they have an "open mind" on permitting more American-style private health care. They supported, then opposed, privatizing Hydro One and flip-flopped on hydro deregulation. Flip-flopping and inconsistency is not leadership you can trust.

New Democrats are clear and consistent in supporting **publicpower** – public health care, public education, public water, public hydro, reasonable tuition, a fair minimum wage, affordable housing, good

pensions, public transportation, child care – an Ontario that serves everyone fairly.

publicpower – **Practical Solutions For Ontario** sets out my vision for a future that belongs to all of us.

Ride the wave that is sweeping across Ontario. Join the NDP
publicpower campaign today.

Yours sincerely,

“Passion, power and Howard
Hampton’s consistent voice.”
– Graham Richardson, Focus Ontario,
Global TV, Sept. 28, 2002.

Howard Hampton

Leader, Ontario NDP



**P.S. That’s what I mean by publicpower. You are the public.
The power is yours. Your vote is your say.**

Practical Solutions for Public Health Care



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for Public Health Care:

- Fight to make sure the Liberals in Ottawa pay their fair share and guarantee every health care dollar goes to patients, not profits or tax cuts.
- Cancel the expansion of private, for-profit diagnostic MRI and CT “scans for cash” and redirect the funding to public health care for better care at less cost.
- Immediately cancel the Conservative scheme for private hospitals in Brampton, Ottawa and elsewhere, and invest in public hospitals in these communities.
- End home care privatization and ensure adequate support exists to enable the elderly, people with disabilities and others to live independently in their own homes when they so choose.
- Act decisively to ensure everyone has access to excellent public health care wherever they live, by introducing 100 new Community Health Centres and expanding existing CHCs.
- Attract and keep our health professionals by reducing medical tuition, creating more full-time nursing and nurse practitioner positions and creating more nurse-friendly environments.
- Roll back the long term care fee increase and introduce tough standards which hospitals, community care and long term care providers must meet to ensure high quality health care, including minimum staffing and care requirements.
- Act quickly for fairness and to relieve the doctor shortage by streamlining the training and accreditation of qualified internationally trained physicians.
- Guarantee accountability in the health care system with a Health Care Standards Commissioner, Patients’ Bill of Rights and whistleblower protection.
- Bring children’s mental health and community mental health out of the cold.
- Save lives by improving access to records for adoptees and birth parents.
- Get back to the job of helping people maintain their health in the first place — not just treating the sick — by introducing an ambitious preventive health plan, including a comprehensive tobacco control strategy.

Practical Solution 1: Fight to make sure the Liberals in Ottawa pay their fair share and guarantee every health care dollar goes to patients, not profits or tax cuts.

People told the Romanow Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada they want five things from their elected representatives:

1. Public, not private, health care. Stop the creeping privatization of health care. Private care is proven to be more expensive, and the quality is worse.
2. Make governments accountable for health care spending. Monitor how health dollars are spent and how they could be spent more wisely.
3. Make sure the Ottawa Liberals pay their fair share.
4. Leadership. People want leadership, here in Ontario and across Canada, to ensure the sustainability of Medicare, an essential Canadian value.
5. Reform. Former Saskatchewan NDP Premier Roy Romanow gives us a blueprint for how we can transform Medicare into a community-based system with a greater emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and home care.

“Roy Romanow’s report on the future of health care clearly explained that private, for-profit health care companies neither save money nor offer better health care...Tories have a pitiful record on privatization. Highway 407 tolls are a rip-off. Hydro is a mess. [Health Minister] Clement has a lot of nerve to expect Ontarians to trust him to get it right this time with health care.”

– Toronto Star editorial, January 6, 2003

So far the news has not been good. Under the so-called federal-provincial “deal”, the Ottawa Liberals are not even coming close to Romanow’s target of 25 per cent federal funding of health care. And, despite Romanow’s urging, the Liberals refuse to do anything to stop the creeping spread of privatization in our health care system.

As for the Conservatives, they refuse to guarantee that every health care dollar will go to patient care rather than to fund other parts of their political agenda.

Neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives are talking concrete reforms to home care, pharmacare and community health care and health promotion.

There is much work to do.

publicpower means full and immediate implementation of the Romanow recommendations. This means demanding that the Liberals in Ottawa pay their fair share of 25 per cent, but also that Ontario must put an immediate stop to the expansion of private health care. Every health care dollar must go to patients, not to for-profit companies or Conservative tax cuts.

Practical Solution 2: Cancel the expansion of private, for-profit diagnostic MRI and CT “scans for cash” and redirect the funding to public health care for better care at less cost.

The Romanow Commission recognized that diagnostic services – including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computerized tomography (CT) – should be part of the public health care system and written into the Canada Health Act as medically necessary procedures. Romanow knew that allowing the wealthy to get MRI and CT scans earlier than everyone else allows them to get necessary medical treatment earlier, which means two-tier medicine – one system for the wealthy and another for the rest of us. The Ontario Association of Radiologists has expressed concerns for public safety as the Conservatives have rushed the privatized MRIs process. This “scan for cash” loophole must be closed.

publicpower means canceling plans for private MRI/CT scans and putting the money where it belongs – in public health care. That means improving diagnostic services in public hospitals.

“In recent years, for example, the federal Liberals have stood idly by while the provinces have been busily privatizing various elements of health-care delivery.”

– Ian Urquhart, Toronto Star, Feb, 8, 2003

Practical Solution 3: Immediately cancel the Conservative scheme for private hospitals in Brampton, Ottawa and elsewhere and invest in public hospitals in these communities.

Private construction of hospitals makes no sense, either now or in the future. Public health care dollars should go to patient care, not to borrowing costs and profits. A recent study comparing for-profit and not-for-profit hospitals in the United States showed death rates increase when profits, not patients, are the bottom line. Experience in Australia and the U.K. is similar – private hospitals cost more to build, cost more to operate (because private companies expect a profit margin), and, when problems arise, it's the taxpayers who bail them out every time.

publicpower means canceling plans for private hospitals, and a commitment to build public hospitals instead.

Practical Solution 4: End home care privatization and ensure adequate support exists to enable the elderly, people with disabilities and others to live independently in their own homes when they so choose.

Home care is an important part of the public health care system. While we need beds for those who choose nursing homes, we must do our best to keep vibrant seniors and people with disabilities in our communities. That includes pushing the Liberals in Ottawa to implement Romanow's recommendation of leaves for caregivers through Employment Insurance.

The Conservatives dramatically reduced home care hours. Between April 1, 2001, and April 1, 2002, 115,000 fewer people received essential home care services. And those who rely on home care are receiving fewer hours of care. Hours of service dropped by over 30 per cent, a total reduction of over six million hours of personal support, nursing care, homemaking support and therapy.

“Whether it is hydro or the hospitals, when private provision of necessary public services fails, public money bails out the private sector.”

– Dr. Gordon Guyatt, McMaster University

If you are one of the countless men and women who need or have a family member who needs home care, you know there's a real crisis. And, like hydro and so many other areas where the Conservatives have put private profit ahead of serving people, privatization is a large part of the problem.

The privatization of home care through competitive bidding for contracts has reduced hours and quality of care and lowered wages.

publicpower means ending competitive bidding, increasing home care hours and returning Community Care Access Centres to community control.

publicpower means giving those who need home care the support to live healthy, independent lives.

Practical Solution 5: Act decisively to ensure everyone has access to excellent public health care wherever they live, by introducing 100 new Community Health Centres and expanding existing CHCs.

Eight years of the Conservative government have left Ontario with a desperate shortage of family physicians, nurses and other health care professionals. A staggering 121 communities need family physicians, compared with 60 only ten years ago.

Romanow gives us the vision. He says we need to get serious about real “primary care reform”, ensuring the availability of quality health care 24 hours a day seven days a week, whether you live in downtown Toronto or Leamington or Kapuskasing.

It takes leadership to make that vision a reality, and the Conservatives have failed miserably. They promised 80 per cent of family physicians would be enrolled in “family health networks” by 2004, but so far only about 5 per cent have signed up.

New Democrats believe Community Health Centres (CHCs) are the answer. CHCs offer high quality health care in your community seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Doctors work on a team with nurse practitioners, registered nurses, social workers, pharmacists and other health workers. A new generation of physicians is looking for a new generation of Medicare. Physicians want the benefits of a salary with real vacation, continuing medical education, maternity and parental leave and reasonable call schedules. That’s the kind of physician-friendly environment that CHCs offer to attract and keep doctors in our communities.

“The people have said loudly and clearly through the Romanow Report that they want a strong, expanded and, most important, public Medicare system.”

– Howard Hampton,
NDP Leader.

Many communities already have CHCs. We know they work. But lack of adequate funding means 80 per cent of existing CHCs are closed to new patients. Many more communities have, for years, been asking for CHCs, but the government has been dragging its feet. It’s time to act. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** would move quickly to establish 100 new Community Health Centres and increase investment in existing CHCs so they can do an even better job of meeting the needs of their communities and attracting health professionals.

publicpower means all Ontarians should have access to excellent public health care services.

Practical Solution 6: Attract and keep our health professionals by reducing medical tuition, creating more full-time nursing and nurse practitioner positions and creating more nurse-friendly environments.

In addition to expanding Community Health Centres, here are other actions the NDP would take to address the urgent need for physicians and other health professionals:

- regulate and reduce medical school tuition to attract students who reflect the full income, geographic and ethnocultural diversity of Ontario;
- remove barriers so more Nurse Practitioners can use all their skills and knowledge in practice and fund new Nurse Practitioner positions.
- retain nurses by ensuring health care organizations are providing a positive work environment. That means more support for on-going education, mentoring and clinical placements. And it also means creating more full-time and permanent registered nursing positions to reduce patient-staff ratios and workload. We need to make hospitals and long term care providers accountable for how they spend staffing dollars.
- provide medical students with more underserved area training and education on the many advantages of working on salary and with a multidisciplinary team of health professionals in CHCs;
- establish a permanent Office of the Advisory Council on Health Human Resources made up of nurses, physicians, patients and other health professionals and their associations. This office would make decisions about supply, mix and distribution of human resources to meet health needs across the province.

publicpower means taking action to meet the growing need for health care professionals all across Ontario.

Practical Solution 7: Roll back the long term care fee increase and introduce tough standards which hospitals, community care and long term care providers must meet to ensure high quality health care for our senior citizens, including minimum staffing and care requirements.

Our senior citizens deserve the very best public health care. Unfortunately Conservative government cuts over the last eight years have meant horror stories in facilities across the province. Seniors and their families are paying more and getting less care. NDP Health Critic Shelley Martel blew the whistle on the Conservatives' change to bathing regulations in nursing homes that no longer ensured even one bath a week. We revealed that homes across the province were diverting funds earmarked for more nurses and personal care workers to buy supplies and pay down deficits. This scheme broke the government's promise that money would be used to hire

2,400 more caregivers. And the Conservatives did away with the NDP government's minimum staffing requirements for nursing homes.

"There's no staff to monitor the residents, we have more falls, the residents have to wait up to an hour to be fed breakfast... There's not enough time for bathing."

- Molly White, nurse at a Toronto long-term care facility, Feb. 10, 2003.

Every personal care dollar should go to ensure more hours of care for seniors in long-term care facilities, not to pay down deficits or increase corporate profits. That means more nurses and personal care workers to provide direct care to residents. The NDP would introduce minimum care and staffing standards based on patient need, and introduce transparency and accountability as to how long term care dollars are spent.

Howard Hampton and the NDP will roll the long-term care increase back to the latest Canada Pension Plan increases to ensure no senior citizen falls farther behind because of unfair user fees.

publicpower means investing in patient care, not corporate profits.

publicpower means seniors should not be rocked with unfair user fees.

Practical Solution 8: Act quickly for fairness and to relieve the doctor shortage by streamlining the training and accreditation of qualified

internationally-trained physicians.

"We have an exciting window of opportunity to put in place Romanow's vision for health care in the 21st century. The Conservatives and Liberals must understand that the people of Ontario want an expanded Medicare system. They clearly don't want public health care funds going into for-profit pockets."

- Shelley Martel, NDP health critic, MPP Nickel Belt.

It's a disgrace that many communities suffer without physicians while trained, qualified doctors work as taxi drivers and waiters. The Conservatives have done nothing to fast-track the accreditation process for internationally-trained doctors in Ontario; their long-awaited announcement simply aimed to steal doctors from other under-serviced jurisdictions in Canada and elsewhere.

Streamlining the training and accreditation of qualified internationally-trained physicians makes good sense - not only because many

"Rocking Chair Protest" fights fee increase

Last summer, **Howard Hampton and the NDP** worked with seniors' advocates, family members and other concerned citizens to force the government to back down on controversial plans to impose a 15 per cent fee increase on 50,000 senior citizens living in long-term care facilities. Leading a 24-hour 'Rocking Chair Protest', Shelley Martel said: "Our seniors will not be rocked by these unfair increases. We will be rocking around the clock to press and demand that the government rescind the imposition of this scandalous new user fee on frail, vulnerable seniors and their families." Seniors won a small victory, but the government still announced it would phase in the increase over three years.

areas of the province are suffering an acute doctor shortage but also because it's the right thing to do.

publicpower means acting for fairness and taking advantage of skilled internationally-trained doctors.

Practical Solution 9: Guarantee accountability with a Health Care Standards Commissioner, Patients' Bill of Rights and whistleblower protection.

The NDP's Patients' Bill of Rights would: stop any Ontario government from dismantling our public health care system by setting out what Ontario patients should expect, entrench the principles of the Canada Health Act in law and extend accessibility and universality to the long-term care and home care sectors.

The Bill of Rights would also provide protection for health care workers who want to speak out on behalf of their patients. We know that when Conservative cuts and mismanagement threw Ontario's health care system into chaos, many workers were not able to speak out on behalf of their patients for fear of retribution. It's time that changed.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would appoint a powerful and independent Health Care Standards Commissioner to monitor and enforce the principles of the Patients' Bill of Rights. The Commissioner would investigate complaints, and work with health professionals and experts to set standards of care – including maximum waiting times, quality of care and patient safety – and enforce those standards.

publicpower means entrenching public health care in Ontario law, so it is protected for future generations.

publicpower means protecting patients by setting standards of public health care and protecting health care workers' rights to speak out on behalf of their patients.

Practical Solution 10: Bring children's mental health and community mental health out of the cold.

For too long mental health has been relegated to the sidelines of health services. Over the last decade we have seen a shifting of mental health services from psychiatric hospitals to the community, but funding has not followed. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** believe that while psychiatric hospitals play an important role, community providers – supporting people in their own homes and communities – are essential to Ontarians' health and wellbeing. This was one of the priorities of the Romanow Report.

That's why we would increase funding for community mental health programs, for the first time since the Conservatives came to power, and provide greater transparency in funding. We would give children's mental health the attention and priority it deserves, investing to reduce waiting lists and making one Cabinet Minister responsible for planning children's mental health services across government ministries and accountable for their overall impact. Our children deserve nothing less.

Howard Hampton and the NDP believe we cannot continue to leave mentally ill people out in the cold with no supports, and nowhere to go. We would build 7,200 supportive housing units.

Finally, we cannot continue to isolate mental health programs. Most people with mental health problems get their treatment from primary care physicians. In the

"The message is clear. Maintaining, and indeed expanding, publicly funded health care will be good not only for the health of individual Canadians, but for the health of the Canadian economy."

– Dr. Gordon Guyatt, Hamilton.

"Mental health has been described as the 'orphan child' of health care"
– Roy Romanow

Canadian Mental Health Association's Windsor-Essex Branch a nurse practitioner is delivering primary mental health care very effectively. It's time we learned from that example. That's why the NDP would ensure a dramatically expanded network of Community Health Centres that will include health professionals trained in mental health care, providing local solutions for local people.

publicpower means supporting people with mental illness in their homes and communities.

publicpower means providing public mental health services at the primary care level, through Community Health Centres.

Practical Solution 11: Save lives by improving access to records for adoptees and birth parents.

Recent research on genetic diseases clearly shows that keeping adoptees in the dark about their medical history actually sentences many of them to premature deaths.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would move quickly to pass Bill 77, a law developed and championed by Toronto-Danforth MPP Marilyn Churley. Bill 77 would improve access to records for adoptees and birth parents. This much-needed adoption disclosure would save lives by giving adult adoptees access to their own adoption records and family medical history. Currently, the more than 300,000 adoptees in Ontario receive no benefit from government screening programs for detection of life-threatening diseases. Bill 77 has received first and second reading in the Legislature and committee hearings have been held. However, the Conservatives and Liberals have blocked final passage of the Bill.

publicpower means ensuring adoptees and birth parents can access critical birth records to save lives.

Practical Solution 12: Get back to the job of helping people maintain their health in the first place — not just treating the sick — by introducing an ambitious preventive health plan, including a comprehensive tobacco control strategy.

A healthier population means more efficient use of our health care system. Our plan includes a comprehensive tobacco control strategy that helps smokers quit and stay quit, with more cessation clinics, a 24-hour a day counseling service, and reducing smoking by young people by requiring retailers to keep tobacco products out of sight behind counters.

publicpower means the best way to keep people healthy is to have a healthy environment. Smog kills thousands, and the NDP plan to shut Ontario's coal-fired power generating stations by 2007 and convert them to cleaner gas will save countless lives. Protecting the quality of drinking water at source, getting cars off grid-locked streets, encouraging more people to ride public transit with lower fares, ensuring children are safer in schoolyards and in their homes, food labeling laws so we know what we eat, reducing violence against women, encouraging energy conservation and finding practical solutions to some of the social causes of bad health – poverty, homelessness, inequality, illiteracy to name a few – these are the keys to a healthy Ontario.

publicpower means helping people stay healthy in the first place.

Practical Solutions for Excellent Schools



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for excellent schools:

- Immediately restore \$2 billion to our schools and classrooms and fully implement the recommendations of the Education Equality Task Force to guarantee every school is an excellent school.
- Ensure public accountability by quickly passing a Charter of Rights for Education, making excellent public education a legal right for every student in Ontario.
- Invest early to ensure every child the best start by offering full day junior and senior kindergarten.
- Ensure students have the opportunity to learn the skills they need.
- Replace the expensive Conservative testing bureaucracy with student testing that will identify student strengths and where they need help. Invest the savings to help students improve.
- Scrap the private school tax credit and put the money back into making every public school an excellent school. No public funds for private schools.

publicpower means understanding that education is the most important investment we can make in our own people. We will make sure every school is an excellent school, whether it's in a well-to-do neighbourhood or not. The Conservatives and Liberals favour school choice, which means parents from higher income neighbourhoods can select the schools that they want their children to attend, while lower and moderate income parents are stuck with what is left.

publicpower means a commitment to narrowing the gap between low and high achieving students. It means investing in students so that all have a fair chance to excel. It means promoting the highest standards in our schools.

Practical Solution 1: Immediately restore \$2 billion to our schools and classrooms and fully implement the recommendations of the Education Equality Task Force.

Mordechai Rozanski's report for the Education Equality Task Force confirmed what parents, students, staff and teachers already knew – our schools have been suffering greatly since the Conservatives started cutting and slashing in 1995. While the Conservatives made a series of announcements and re-announcements following Dr. Rozanski, that's just starting to restore the \$2 billion they gouged out of the classrooms in the first place. Piecemeal pre-election announcements aren't what the education system needs.



Howard Hampton and the NDP would restore the full amount identified by Rozanski - \$2 billion including inflation – into our schools and classrooms NOW. “Candy bar funding” for essential school supplies must end. Our dedicated Education Excellence Fund would guarantee accountability and take the politics out of education funding.

School boards must have the ability to meet local community needs. End the artificial distinction between ‘classroom’ and ‘non-classroom’ and recognize that the school, especially in rural areas, is the hub of the community.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would ensure that every school has what it takes to be excellent, including textbooks for every student, being clean and safe, special education services for all who need them, English or French as a Second Language for all who need it, a principal, librarian and physical education teacher in every school.

Further, **Howard Hampton and the NDP** would guarantee genuine consultation for parents, teachers, education workers, principals and the community before any new reforms. Education policies and reforms will be driven by research, not politics.

Practical Solution 2: Ensure public accountability by quickly passing a Charter of Rights for Education, making excellent public education a legal right for every student.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would move quickly to enact a Charter of Rights for Education, similar to the Canada Health Act, that would make the principles of public education the law in Ontario. The Charter would start with the words that summarize what public education is all about: “Every child must have the opportunity to excel in the public education system.”

Four essential principles are enshrined in the NDP's Charter of Rights for Education:

- **Accessibility:** Every child is guaranteed access to an education unimpeded by a financial barrier or any other barrier (user fees, special needs, for example)

“The Rozanski task force proved the Conservative agenda of cutting education over the last seven years was completely wrong.”
– Howard Hampton, NDP Leader.

- **Universality:** Every child has the right to the same high quality of public education. A child's education should not depend on what area of the province or what neighbourhood he or she lives in.
- **Comprehensiveness:** Every child has the right to a comprehensive public education that meets individual needs and goals. For example, students who are struggling should have the help they need and opportunity to reach their academic goals, rather than be discouraged and pushed to drop out.
- **Public Administration:** Every child has a right to attend a properly funded and properly maintained public school that is in no way run for profit.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would appoint a powerful new Education Commissioner who would report directly to the Legislature. The commissioner would enforce the new education charter; and report on whether the Ontario education ministry is closing the education gap, ensure that every school is an excellent school and all students get a fair chance to succeed while promoting quality education standards.

Practical Solution 3: Invest early to ensure every child the best start by offering full junior and senior kindergarten.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would invest in our youngest students by offering full-day junior and senior kindergarten to all who want it. This would be part of an early learning strategy including an expansion of affordable, quality, regulated child care to ensure that every child arrives at school ready to learn.

Practical Solution 4: Ensure students have the opportunity to learn the skills they need.

Making every school an excellent school means making hands-on skills-based programs accessible to all students, regardless of where they live. Today, too many students are dropping out of high school. According to a Queen's University study, 25 per cent of Ontario's high school students will drop out. In Toronto, the rate is 29 per cent. Conservative policies have made matters worse. Under the new curriculum only 36 per cent of students enrolled in the non-academic stream are now completing 16 courses after two years of high school; this compares with 57 per

cent under the old system. And there's a strong link between the drop out rate and where the student lives – in Toronto, 30 per cent of students from the lowest income neighbourhoods are failing more than one Grade 9 course, compared with only nine per cent in the more well-to-do neighbourhoods.



Howard Hampton and the NDP believe our public education system must leave no student behind. Every qualified student must have a fair opportunity to attend college or university. But if a student is among the over 80 per cent who do not go on to university, the public schools system must provide the skills needed to get a good start in life. The NDP's School2Work plan is a practical solution that will allow all students to excel. It would:

- provide on-the-job experience and learning through co-op programs that have adequate resources to give students the skills they can really use
- link high school programs to apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship training where students are helped to find sponsoring employers
- work closely with employer groups and trade unions to create school-based programs that clearly respond to the needs of today's knowledge-based society

Practical Solution 5: Replace the expensive Conservative testing bureaucracy with student testing that will identify student strengths and areas where help is needed. Invest the savings to help students improve.

Too often, student assessment under the Conservatives has been about politics. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** would put the focus where it belongs, on helping students excel and providing accountability to parents. The real problem that needs to be addressed is the education gap and how to guarantee parents that every effort is being made to ensure their daughter or son gets a fair chance to succeed.



Every student will participate in province-wide literacy and math tests in Grades 3, 6, 9 (math) and 10 (literacy). Unlike the current standardized testing, the new tests will be diagnostic and taken at the beginning of the school year. They will provide students, parents, teachers and education administrators the tools to develop individual and school action plans to help students succeed. They will be used to support instead of impede student progress through the grades. Results will also help determine when a school requires additional resources.

The tests will be developed by Ontario teachers and implemented locally. Teachers will be provided with the tools to analyze the results to improve student learning. They will be administered locally. Local conditions such as English/French as a second language and special education needs would be considered in analyzing the results. Results will be shared with students, their parents, teachers and school administrators. They will not be used to rank students, schools or school districts as winners and losers.

The Education Commissioner will ensure testing results are used to close the education gap and to improve quality education standards.

Practical Solution 6: Scrap the private school tax credit and put the money back into making every public school an excellent school. No public funds for private schools.



Taxpayer money should not support profit-driven private schools. All available resources should be dedicated to building a high quality public education system where every school is an excellent school and parents do not feel compelled to send their children to private schools to get a good education. This could save \$500 million a year that would be directed to improving the public school system.



Practical Solutions for Public Hydro



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for Affordable, Reliable Hydro:

- Keep our hydro in public hands. Immediately end hydro privatization and deregulation.
- Create Efficiency Ontario to take the lead on money-saving, environmentally friendly, energy efficiency measures so that people can save money through using less hydro, less gas and less heating oil.
- Guarantee by law that by the year 2010 at least 10 per cent and by the year 2020 at least 20 per cent of our electricity would be produced from renewable, environmentally friendly sources.
- Ensure public accountability in our public power system through a new Public Utilities Commission.
- Place a moratorium on new nuclear power stations, clean our air by closing or converting Ontario's coal-fired generating stations by 2007 and invest in clean and renewable energy generation to ensure reliable electricity at cost for Ontario consumers.

**“Remember your hydro bill
when you vote.”**

One hundred years ago, “power at cost” delivered by “the people’s power company” came to Ontario. The Conservative Premier at the time declared our hydro “should not in the future be made the sport and prey of capitalists and shall not be treated as anything else but a valuable asset of the people of Ontario.” People in towns and cities across Ontario voted overwhelmingly, in referenda, to keep their power in public hands and not in the hands of greedy, profit-hungry power barons.

A public electricity system was how Northern and rural areas got hydro in the first place.

Now, in the 21st century, today’s Conservatives want to give away our heritage. Supported by the McGuinty Liberals, the Conservatives deregulated the hydro generation market and tried to sell Hydro One, the transmission wires. Just like 100 years ago, the people spoke out and the Conservatives were forced to flip flop. Not to be outdone, the Liberals flopped as the Conservatives flipped.

But has public power been saved? No, not yet.

That’s what this election is all about.

The Conservatives capped retail prices until the election. They said they wouldn’t sell Hydro One. And if they are re-elected? The law is still on the books. The Conservatives or Liberals can sell Hydro One and our generating stations quicker than you can say “public power”. And you can bet they will.

Capping the prices consumers pay but not regulating the price at which power is generated and purchased can’t work. Any businessperson knows that ‘buying high and selling low’ is dumb. Cold winter days and hot summer days – a fact of life in Ontario – mean blackouts or brownouts and higher rates. If rates are capped, you’ll pay for them with higher municipal property taxes or higher debt repayments, but you know you will pay.

“The provincial government’s hydro rate freeze will cost the City of Cambridge \$850,000 – money that will now be made up by the city’s property taxpayers...The poor homeowner gets it one way or another...The hydro shortfall will boost Cambridge property tax bills by a full two per cent this year.” – Kitchener-Waterloo Record, January 25, 2003

That’s why the Conservative/Liberal price cap is such a fraud. It’s vote-buying until the election, pure and simple.

Howard Hampton and the NDP have a practical solution. Public, regulated, power at cost. It made sense to the people 100 years ago. It makes sense now. But, that’s not the whole 21st Century solution. We also need tough action to conserve energy, reduce our power needs and costs and move to cleaner, modern renewable energy.

publicpower means the electricity that belongs to all of us, that we all need, must stay in public hands.

publicpower means affordable, reliable, democratically accountable and clean electricity – for homeowners and tenants, small business, farm operators and industry.

publicpower means moving forward to an energy-efficient, environmentally sustainable future.

“The hydro rate freeze will thaw quickly after the election and every consumer will be taken to the cleaners again with even higher prices, more debt and supply shortages. That’s what has happened everywhere in the world under hydro privatization and deregulation.”

– Howard Hampton, Leader, Ontario NDP

“This government is not for poor people. I will not support them in the next election, even if the \$75 cheque was for a larger amount. What happened to our hydro bill over the past months should never have happened.”

Young man quoted in Hamilton Spectator, January 6, 2003.

“I’ve worked in this [electricity] industry and still work in this industry and even I admit that deregulation does not work.”

– Electricity worker, Toronto Sun, January 12, 2003



“Throughout Ontario’s electricity privatization process, Dalton [McGuinty] and the Ontario Liberals have been consistent supporters of the move to an open electricity market in Ontario.”
 – Liberal fundraising letter to private energy special interests, October 31, 2001.

“As much as Eves flipped, McGuinty flopped. Only NDP Leader Howard Hampton has been consistent on this, opposing any form of Hydro privatization from the start.”
 – Christina Blizzard, Toronto Sun, Jan. 24, 2003.

Practical Solution 1: Keep our hydro in public hands. Immediately end hydro privatization and deregulation.

Only an immediate and decisive end to privatization and deregulation will keep our hydro affordable and reliable. As long as private commission-takers, profit takers and fee takers control a share of our hydro, prices will go up. High prices and blackouts were the experience in California and, in fact, everywhere else in the world where the deregulation experiment has been tried. Don’t be fooled by the temporary, election-bribe price caps. You will pay – if not sooner through higher taxes, then later in exorbitant hydro rates – if **either** Conservatives or Liberals are elected.

Private investors and their consultants admit it: the Conservatives will privatize hydro after the election. **Remember what happened when they privatized Highway 407 – big price hikes and terrible service, all enforced with secret, backroom deals. We can’t let them get away with it again.**

Public hydro at cost is affordable and reliable. Private hydro is neither. Only **Howard Hampton and the NDP** are clearly on the side of affordable and reliable public power.

Practical Solution 2: Create Efficiency Ontario to take the lead on money-saving, environmentally friendly, energy efficiency measures so that people can save money through using less hydro, less gas and less heating oil.

In the deregulated and privatized electricity market favoured by the Conservatives and Liberals, private profit-seekers are not interested in energy efficiency. The more energy you use, the longer you run your air conditioner, the more profit they make. They don’t care about the environment. They don’t care about how you could save money.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would create a new agency – Efficiency Ontario – that would pay for itself, many times over. Here’s how it would work: Efficiency Ontario would set and enforce building retrofit standards, recommend the best technologies and practices, certify energy efficiency contractors, monitor results and educate people about conservation and efficiency. Efficiency Ontario would work with local hydro commissions to loan you money to pay for measures that would permanently reduce your home, school or workplace’s energy use, both gas and electricity. The cost would be recovered over time on your hydro or gas bill, but your bill after the retrofit would be no more than your bill before the retrofit. In fact, once the cost of the retrofit is recovered, you would keep 100 per cent of the savings – your energy efficiency dividend. And your savings would be considerable.

Efficiency Ontario will save energy and save you money. But it will do much more. Few buildings in Ontario are as energy efficient as they should be. Using current materials and technologies, we could reduce our energy use by at least 40 per cent. Fewer generating stations would be needed. Expensive electricity imports from the United States would be reduced. Hundreds, probably

BRASCAN DRAINED THE LAKE AND FILLED ITS RICH COFFERS



Last summer, when hydro prices spiked, Brascan-owned Great Lakes Power turned Rocky Island Lake, near Sault

Ste. Marie, into the Rocky Island Desert. Brascan, a huge private power corporation, opened the floodgates to make a quick profit and the lake was reduced to sand flats and tree stumps. Fish died, tourist operators suffered. Brascan gave \$150,000 to the Premier Eves leadership campaign and made a huge profit from hydro privatization. Says Howard Hampton, NDP Leader: "We'll keep fighting to make sure Ontario's hydro stays in public hands. What happened at Rocky Island Lake must never happen again."

thousands, of jobs would be created, making homes, offices, stores, schools, hospitals and factories more energy efficient.

Practical Solution 3: Guarantee by law that by the year 2010 at least 10 per cent and by 2020 at least 20 per cent of our electricity would be produced from renewable, environmentally friendly sources.

Howard Hampton and the NDP have long demanded the closure of Ontario's dirty coal-burning generating stations. But converting them to cleaner gas by our target date of 2007 is only part of the solution. Strong leadership is needed to achieve our vision of clean, renewable public power. Other jurisdictions have the right idea. Denmark, with half the population of Ontario, already produces nearly 20 per cent of its power from wind alone. Manitoba Hydro and Hydro Quebec, both publicly owned, are giving preference to wind power. On a smaller scale we have a wind turbine towering over the Canadian National Exhibition grounds in Toronto thanks to the hard work and vision of the Toronto Renewable Energy Cooperative. Wind power, solar energy, biomass, thousands of undeveloped run-of-the-river small sites across the province – there is great potential for harnessing clean, renewable public power. As time and technology advance, clean renewable energy becomes more affordable. We can do it.

Practical Solution 4: Ensure public accountability in our public power system through a new Public Utilities Commission.

Our public hydro was created by democracy – over a hundred municipal referenda in communities across Ontario – and we need to ensure democracy is the cornerstone of our public power system

Announcement of no Hydro One sale is "more of a delay rather than a permanent cancellation. Who needs controversy with an election coming?" – Peter Budd, private energy industry leader, admitting that the Conservatives' corporate friends expect hydro to be privatized if the Conservatives are re-elected. Ottawa Citizen, January 21, 2003.

"Eves has retreated on so many issues from allowing a free market to set hydro rates to increasing nursing home fees he has an image of being ready to abandon any principle at a hint of protest.

"Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty has made almost as many flip-flops, his most recent being for and against privatizing electricity transmission and freezing hydro rates.

"Neither has convinced voters he is capable of choosing policies he can stick to or shown the confidence and sure-footedness they expect in a leader.

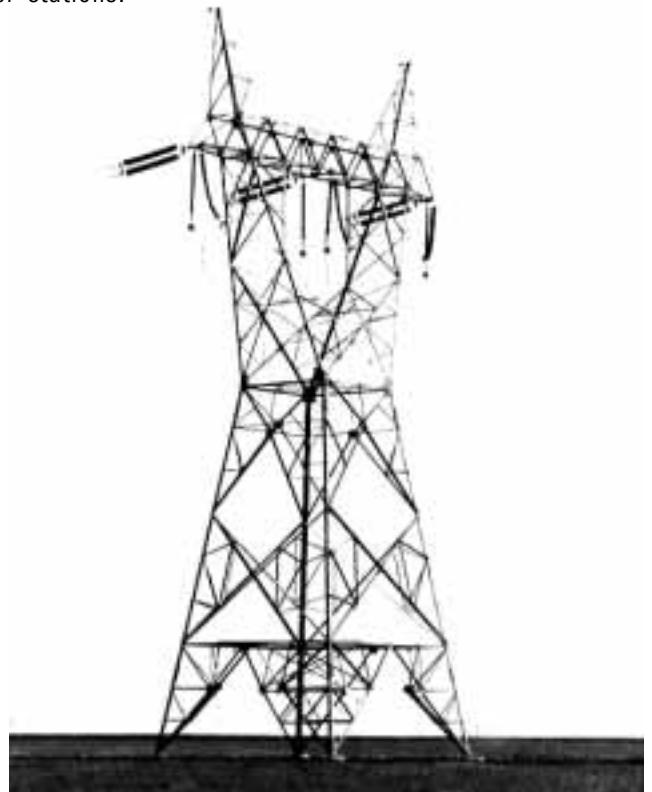
"New Democrat leader Howard Hampton in contrast, as even some of his critics have acknowledged, has been a model of consistency, against privatizing hydro assets and against a free market in rates, among other stands."

- Queen's Park columnist, Welland Tribune, January 9, 2003

in the 21st Century. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** would ensure democratic public accountability through a new Public Utilities Commission that would have the authority, expertise and resources to effectively direct the public power system. All proposed new generating stations would need to be approved by the Public Utilities Commission. It would also determine the fair, actual cost of hydro, so we wouldn't have the exorbitant and crippling price spikes we saw last in 2002.

Practical Solution 5: Place a moratorium on new nuclear power stations, clean our air by closing or converting Ontario's coal-fired generating stations by 2007 and invest in clean and renewable energy generation to ensure reliable electricity at cost for Ontario consumers.

The Conservatives started and the Liberals finished the Darlington Nuclear Power Station, which went more than \$10 billion over budget. New Democrats fought against Darlington from the beginning. The Conservatives continue to pour billions into the existing nuclear stations when much less money could go much further if aggressively invested in energy and money-saving conservation programs and renewable energy projects. In fact, with energy efficiency programs, smaller-scale generation and natural gas-fired plants to replace dirty coal, public power is by far the best way to meet our ongoing electricity needs. It's time to say "enough!" to the mega-projects. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** would not build any new nuclear power stations.



Practical Solutions for Clean Air and Water



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for Clean Air and Water:

- Keep drinking water – the delivery and the testing of drinking water – public. Provide municipalities with the funding to properly operate and maintain sewer and water systems.
- Immediately pass the NDP's Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Act to ensure drinking water is protected from source to tap.
- Clean our air by closing or converting Ontario's coal-fired generating stations by 2007 and implementing aggressive energy efficiency and conservation programs.
- Control our garbage by developing aggressive recycling and composting programs and ban mega landfills and municipal waste incineration.
- Implement a tough Green Planning Act to fight urban sprawl and preserve valuable agricultural land, wetlands and other important natural areas, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine from development.
- Restore the 260 hectare limit on clearcuts and enforce sustainable forestry practices that protect the health of the forest and the local economy.
- Institute mandatory food labeling for genetically modified and irradiated foods to ensure consumers know what they are eating.
- Develop a tough, binding strategy to preserve species at risk and their habitat and protect our neglected parks.
- Implement strong measures to control the importing and dumping of toxic waste.
- Restore Citizen Participation in protecting the environment.
- Take action on environmental causes of illness.

Nothing is as essential as the water we drink.

publicpower means keeping our drinking water public. It belongs to all of us. There is no place for private profit in our drinking water, neither its delivery nor its testing.

The poisoning of 2,000 Walkerton residents and the death of seven shook Ontario to the core. People aren't supposed to die from drinking the water in a rich province like Ontario. But they did. The fact that it was entirely preventable made it a double tragedy: first and foremost, of course, a human tragedy for Walkerton's residents. But it was also a tragedy of profoundly distorted priorities in which tax cuts for the wealthy took precedence over the safety and health of Ontario residents.

No one doubts that the Conservative tax cuts and privatization schemes were responsible for the dismissal of half the staff of the Ministry of Environment. No one doubts that the loss of at least 850 professionals contributed to the poisoning in Walkerton. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** are determined that there will never be another tragedy like Walkerton.

Practical Solution 1: Keep drinking water – the delivery and testing of drinking water – public. Provide municipalities with the funding to properly operate and maintain sewer and water systems.

When it comes to drinking water, you don't compromise quality for profit and you don't want managers cutting corners to save money. The Conservative government's downloading has resulted in crumbling and aging water treatment and distribution systems. The Conservatives closed public water testing labs, forcing municipalities to use private labs. Now several private labs face charges for falsifying results, not following the rules and cutting corners to save money.

The Conservatives have promised to continue denying municipalities the money they need to fix crumbling infrastructure. They have promised to continue rolling the dice and relying on private water testing labs.

But New Democrats are not willing to gamble with your drinking water.

Howard Hampton and the NDP will keep drinking water public. We will ensure that publicly run, publicly accountable, and well-funded water systems deliver clean and safe water for every Ontarian. We will re-open public water testing labs to ensure municipalities get reliable and affordable testing results. We will implement a Safe Drinking Water Fund to provide essential funding to upgrade municipal water treatment and distribution systems.

Practical Solution 2: Immediately pass the NDP's Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Act to ensure drinking water is protected from source to tap.

Marilyn Churley, NDP Environment Critic and MPP Toronto Danforth, worked with environmentalists, law groups and the residents of Walkerton to develop the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Commission of Inquiry into the Walkerton tragedy recommended that such legislation be passed without delay.

"The Conservatives followed our lead on the Safe Drinking Water Act. My **Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Act** is the next logical step. They can't guarantee safe water without source protection,"

– Marilyn Churley, NDP Environment Critic, MPP for Toronto Danforth

"They've done half the job."

– Bruce Davidson, Concerned Walkerton Citizens, referring to the government's inaction on drinking water



When the Conservatives finally passed their own Safe Drinking Water Act they acknowledged the contributions of Marilyn Churley, but their legislation was a mere shadow of what she had put together two years earlier.

Most notably, the Conservative legislation fails to protect the sources of our drinking water – wells, lakes and streams – from getting contaminated in the first place. In December, Marilyn Churley again did the work and introduced her Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Act in the legislature. The NDP would move immediately to make that Bill the law and ensure drinking water is protected, finally, from source to tap.

“More than 2 1/2 _ years after the Walkerton E. Coli disaster, inspections indicate about half of Ontario’s water-treatment plants are still failing to test their water properly or violating other safety rules meant to prevent such a tragedy from happening again.”
– Toronto Star, Dec. 23, 2002.

The Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Act establishes Watershed Planning Boards across the province with the mandate and resources to protect the quantity and quality of water in the watershed. These boards would produce Source Protection Plans that would prevent water contamination by human activity, intensive factory hog farms, massive water taking and other development.

Practical Solution 3: Clean our air by closing or converting Ontario’s coal-fired generating stations by 2007 and implementing aggressive energy efficiency and conservation programs.

Ontario’s dirty air causes asthma and other respiratory illnesses – and it’s killing us. According to the Ontario Medical Association, dirty air is responsible for 1,900 premature deaths, 9,800 hospital admissions, 13,000 emergency room visits, and a staggering 47 million “sick days”. Implementing the Kyoto Protocol without delay is part of the answer. But we have a long way to go to clean up our air. Ontario’s coal-fired generators are major culprits and the NDP would move quickly to replace them with gas, renewable energy and, through the new Efficiency Ontario initiative, get serious about energy conservation so we can all breathe easier.

“The environment ministry is stumbling badly on water monitoring.”
– The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

Practical Solution 4: Control our garbage by developing aggressive recycling and composting programs, and ban mega landfills and municipal waste incineration.

Howard Hampton and the NDP recognize strong leadership is needed to control our garbage problem. The NDP led the fight against shipping of Toronto’s garbage to Kirkland Lake because contaminating that community’s pristine groundwater for 100 years is not the answer.

The NDP would take Ontario to the forefront of dealing with garbage and protecting the environment. We would immediately ban mega-landfill projects such as the Adams Mine and restore the ban on new municipal waste incineration. Second, the NDP would aggressively develop and expand recycling programs, composting for “wet” waste, and getting producers to take real responsibility for packaging waste and durable goods. This means setting tough regulations with targets for keeping waste out of landfill. The NDP will:

- Expand the bottle-return system to all liquor and wine bottles sold by the LCBO.
- Work with municipalities to provide and expand curbside collection and composting of wet waste so that no material goes to landfill that could be composted.
- Expand the Blue Box program so that no recyclable material goes into landfill.

- Develop take-back programs for a variety of products, such as electronics, which will create jobs and protect the environment.

Practical Solution 5: Implement a tough Green Planning Act to fight urban sprawl and preserve valuable agricultural land, wetlands, woodlands and other important natural areas from development.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would bring in tough legislation requiring the province to work with municipalities and rural communities to protect natural features that affect our water supply and other ecological systems. This means permanently protecting treasures like the Oak Ridges Moraine and our disappearing farmland and reforming the Ontario Municipal Board.



Practical Solution 6: Restore the 260 hectare limit on clearcuts and enforce sustainable forestry practices that protect the health of the forest and the local economy.

Howard Hampton and the NDP blew the whistle over a year ago on this government's practice of approving massive 10,000-hectare clearcuts, even though the law limits clearcuts to 260 hectares unless there are exceptional circumstances. The NDP will immediately stop this practice.

Howard Hampton and the NDP will work with communities that rely on the forestry industry to develop value-added strategies, protect local jobs by preventing the transfer of wood from mills, and ensure there is adequate staffing in the Ministry of Natural Resources to monitor and manage our valuable forests.

Practical Solution 7: Institute mandatory food labeling for genetically modified and irradiated foods to ensure consumers know what they are eating.

Genetically modified food is produced using revolutionary technology and it is far too early to know if there are any health effects from eating it. In the meantime, people deserve the right to choose whether or not to eat food developed with this technology. Howard Hampton and the NDP would ensure that consumers have the information to make choices by requiring that all food composed of, containing, or derived from genetically engineered materials be labeled as such.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would support farmers making the transition to the production of organic foods, non-genetically modified foods and fibres.

ONLY HOWARD HAMPTON AND THE NDP TAKE CLEAR STANDS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU. COMPARE THESE QUOTES

"As of yesterday, Ontario Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty had not committed to banning the megabarns."

- Ottawa Citizen, January 24, 2003

and,

"New Democrat Marilyn Churley said hog barns pose a "very real threat" to the environment and said a moratorium is essential."

- Canadian Press story, January 23, 2003

Practical Solution 8: Develop a tough, binding strategy to preserve species at risk and their habitat, and protect our neglected parks.

Howard Hampton and the NDP believe it is time to protect species at risk and their habitats. Of the 60 species at risk, the Ontario Endangered Species Act protects only 29 because the Conservatives can't be bothered to address the backlog of 31 species they have yet to recognize. Of the 29 the legislation does protect, three have already disappeared from Ontario since 1995. The government hasn't even developed protection plans for most of the remaining species. The 2002 Environment Commissioner's Report condemned the government for its inaction on protecting the Woodland Caribou, a threatened species in Ontario. The NDP would take action to protect the Woodland Caribou.

Even worse, parks and protected areas are not being protected. Privatized customer service is abysmal, infrastructure is deteriorating and most parks have no operating plans or enforcement. As a result of this failure to act, our public parks are being ravaged.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would protect our parks and species at risk by:

- Immediately moving to fix the backlog of at risk species and develop and implement real protection plans for these species so that no more disappear from Ontario.
- Ensuring all parks have the necessary management plans and the proper enforcement to preserve the delicate balance between human activity, habitat and natural features.
- Scrapping the Conservatives' proposed Recreation Reserve Area designation and provide real protection for newly designated park areas and signature sites in Ontario.

Practical Solution 9: Implement strong measures to control the importing and dumping of toxic waste.

Ontario is known as the toxic waste capital of North America. And it's no wonder. The import of hazardous wastes from the United States to Ontario increased substantially from 1994 to 1999 - Ontario imported 129,118 tons of hazardous waste from the U.S. in 1994, and more than 324,554 tons in 1999.

Today, untreated waste from the highly toxic Sydney Tar Ponds in Nova Scotia is dumped near Sarnia. PCBs are incinerated in Cornwall and Northumberland County. Toxic waste is shipped to Corunna, Breslau, Hamilton and Toronto. Only an organized community protest derailed the giant Bennett incinerator in Kirkland Lake. Communities across Ontario are under siege.

How did Ontario rise to the top of the toxic waste heap? Conservatives made toxic waste dumping a growth industry. Their cuts to Ministry of Environment staff resulted in slow and ineffective reaction to toxic threats. Conservative so-called "red tape" reductions weakened rules regarding the treatment, recycling and landfilling of hazardous waste. Finally, a weakened environmental assessment process and waiver of Ontario's right to review proposed toxic imports under federal legislation has meant less citizen input, greater ministerial discretion and toxic waste imports without any review.



Howard Hampton and the NDP would implement strong measures to control the import and dumping of toxic waste in our communities including:

- Implement North America's toughest standards for the treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes, including an outright ban on the disposal of untreated hazardous waste and much more stringent monitoring of environmental impacts.
- Tougher fines that are a real deterrent to polluters and sufficient inspectors and monitoring staff to ensure industries comply with the tough new standards.
- Work with industry to develop and implement industry pollution prevention strategies to encourage industries to utilize the latest technology and strategies to reduce the production of hazardous wastes in the first place.
- Ban new toxic waste incinerators and phase out the use of existing incinerators by investing in environmentally-friendly alternatives.
- Implement an aggressive phase-out of biomedical waste incineration by removing toxic substances from the waste stream in the first place and using alternative technologies to deal with what's left.

publicpower means sending a strong signal that Ontario will no longer be a haven for everyone else's toxic wastes and a place where they can dump their environmental disasters.

Practical Solution 10: Restore Citizen Participation in Protecting the Environment.

Supported by policies such as the NDP's Environmental Bill of Rights, citizens should play an active role in protecting our environment. However, the Conservatives have gutted the Environmental Assessment Act, taking away the tools people need to make important decisions about their local environment. They have put in its place an anti-democratic rubber-stamping system that ensures citizens have no real input.



Howard Hampton and the NDP would restore teeth to the Environmental Assessment Act and return real citizen participation to the process. This includes restoring intervenor funding so those without deep pockets aren't locked out of the process. The NDP would also make all government ministries subject to the Environmental Bill of Rights, giving more power to citizens to know what government is doing. Finally, the NDP would publicize the worst polluters by resuming publication of the annual Offences Against the Environment.

Practical Solution 11: Take Action on Environmental Causes of Illness.

Cancer and other illness rates are higher in cities that have air pollution problems. Studies have shown that environmental factors such as chemicals in water and air pollution can lead to higher cancer rates, increased respiratory diseases, allergies, and other health problems. A cleaner environment means healthier people.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would take action to improve the health of Ontarians by cleaning up our environment. This includes:

- Implementing a Pesticide Reduction Strategy, including supporting municipalities that wish to ban cosmetic pesticide use.
- Establishing a Children's Health and the Environment Branch of the Ministry of the Environment, that will tackle the environmental causes of health problems for children.
- Setting up a Task Force to investigate and prevent environmental factors contributing to breast cancer.

Practical Solutions for Affordable Housing and Strong Communities



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for Affordable Housing and Strong Communities:

- Protect tenants by freezing rents for two years and bringing back real rent control.
- Reduce homelessness by building 32,000 new, affordable housing units over the next four years, plus 11,200 additional supportive housing units for the homeless. Increase shelter allowances.
- Lower transit fares, shorten waits and reduce gridlock on our highways by dedicating a new Transportation Trust Fund to building reliable, affordable public transit and repairing municipal roads.
- Build local democracy by giving municipalities the tools they need to provide good quality services without raising property taxes.
- Revitalize rural Ontario and provide economic opportunities for young people.
- Revitalize downtown business and cultural areas with a Dynamic Downtown Fund.

publicpower means giving our communities – urban and rural – back to the people who live and work there. It means affordable housing, accessible and affordable public transportation, economic opportunities, vibrant business and cultural centers. It means local democracy.

Michael Prue, the NDP Housing and Municipal Affairs critic and MPP for Beaches-East York, met with hundreds of municipal officials, local politicians, tenants and property taxpayers in rural and urban communities across Ontario. Prue's recommendations present a vision of the healthy city or town, where homelessness is eliminated, where public transit is chosen over roads and urban sprawl, and where life is breathed back into heritage buildings, old industrial sites and downtown areas. And they show how we can work to help rural communities fulfill their true economic potential while maintaining the high quality of life they offer.

Practical Solution 1: Protect tenants by freezing rents for two years and bringing back real rent control.

If you're a tenant, you know the story. Under the Conservatives it has been getting harder and harder to pay the rent. Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Toronto rose to \$1,047 in 2002, up from \$821 in 1997. In Ottawa it went to \$930 from \$729; in Hamilton it increased to \$765 from \$636; in Kitchener to \$750 from \$630; and in Oshawa the rent for the same average two-bedroom apartment increased to \$819 from \$691. Rents are rising at a staggering 15 per cent over the inflation rate.

“Treating tenants fairly benefits everyone.”

– Michael Prue, MPP
Beaches- East York, NDP
Housing and Municipal
Affairs Critic

Howard Hampton and the NDP have a two-step practical solution to restore some balance to the system. The first step is a two-year freeze on all rents. A freeze makes sense because tenants have been paying more than their fair share for a long time – they deserve some relief. At the end of the freeze we need rent controls pegged at rates that protect tenants. Rent controls must apply to vacant units as well as occupied ones. We'll also bring in much tighter limits on landlord costs that are now passed on to tenants. That's the second step.

Why is rent control important? Because shelter should be affordable. Many tenants are on fixed incomes, or they're students, recent immigrants, graduates who have landed their first job, young families – people who are trying to save money to build a better future.

Obviously the Conservatives have different ideas. They don't see the impact that mounting rent increases are having on people's lives. And they have no real commitment to affordable housing.

Like the Conservatives, the Liberals favour developers over tenants. In fact, on December 5, 2002, the McGuinty Liberals voted against the NDP proposal for a two-year rent freeze. And they say they'll cancel rent controls if the number of vacant apartments goes above 3 per cent. In Toronto, the vacancy rate is now 2.5 per cent so tenants are right to worry.

Everyone in Ontario deserves a decent, affordable place to live. The NDP Practical Solution for a rent freeze and real rent control is a good move in that direction.

Practical Solution 2: Reduce homelessness by building 32,000 new, affordable housing units over the next four years, plus 11,200 additional supportive housing units for the homeless. Increase shelter allowances.

Howard Hampton and the NDP are committed to wiping out homelessness. In Toronto alone, 63,000 people are on waiting lists for social housing and 30,000 are forced to use emergency shelters. A growing number are children. And homelessness is not just a Toronto or big city problem. Homelessness is a crisis that reaches into every corner of the province.

“The December 5th vote against the Rent Freeze Act raised serious doubts about the willingness of the Ontario Liberal Party to give anything other than lip service to tenant...on rent issues I prefer the NDP over the other major parties, as do all other tenant advocates that I know of.”

– Paul York, Greater Toronto
Tenants Association

It will take leadership and tough decisions to build homes for the homeless. But the Conservatives look the other way when confronted by the thousands of men, women and children who must live on the streets because there is no decent, affordable housing. Some Conservatives, like Cabinet Minister Jim Flaherty, want to make homelessness illegal, one of the silliest ideas of the last year.

The NDP Practical Solution to reduce homelessness would build 32,000 units over four years plus 11,200 supportive housing units for the homeless. The 32,000 units would be built in small and medium-sized buildings well integrated into the community and include tenants paying market rent in addition to tenants paying rents geared to their income. At the same time, the shelter portion of social assistance would be increased to 85 per cent of the average rent so our lowest income citizens can afford to pay the rent (the Golden Report said this was a crucial way to prevent homelessness).

New affordable housing would be paid for by transferring \$536 million from the provincial land transfer tax to municipalities on condition that it be spent on affordable housing. These funds would be pooled province-wide and transferred to municipalities on the basis of need. Up to 20 per cent of the money could be spent on repairing existing social housing. Any land transfer tax money not spent by municipalities would be allocated to housing programs run by the province to ensure every dollar goes to affordable housing.

Practical Solution 3: Lower transit fares, shorten waits and reduce gridlock on our highways by dedicating a new Transportation Trust Fund to building reliable, affordable public transit and repairing municipal roads.

publicpower is about putting people and clean air ahead of cars.

Conservative cuts to public transit and municipalities have resulted in higher transit fares, longer waiting times, more and more people driving instead of taking buses and subways, and a situation where rush hour resembles a big parking lot. While the Conservative and Ottawa Liberal governments bicker about who is responsible, smog, driver frustration and prices keep increasing. This is the wrong direction.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would guarantee stable year-after-year funding to build a strong public transit system and properly maintain our highways and roads. The NDP's Ontario Transportation Trust Fund would dedicate three cents from the existing 14.7 cents a litre gas tax (\$468 million a year) to transportation, and to no other purpose. An independent board would ensure accountability. Municipalities would have the option of increasing the percentage of the Fund to be used for public transit, set initially at 60 per cent for municipal public transit and 25 per cent for road and highway maintenance. The remaining 15 per cent - a total of \$70 million guaranteed each year- would be dedicated to building and maintaining GO Transit. That will help people from "905" communities around Toronto commute to work, shop and study.

Finally, the NDP public transportation plan would provide targeted funding to allow college and university students, senior citizens and people enrolled in a job training program to obtain public transit passes at one-third the full rate.

Practical Solution 4: Build local democracy by giving municipalities the tools to provide quality services without raising property taxes.

Municipalities and property taxpayers end up paying the bill for wrong-headed Conservative policies like hydro deregulation and downloading, but too often have no say.

publicpower means giving people through their accountable local representatives the tools to meet community needs. Through city charters and changes to the Municipal Act **Howard Hampton and the NDP** would:

- scrap the Conservative law requiring homeowners to pick up the entire cost of property tax increases in some cities
- give cities the power to fund tourism promotion through a hotel tax
- revamp the Ontario Municipal Board to ensure democratic decision-making and good planning for citizens, not just developers
- address property tax unfairness, such as the inequity in taxation of rental property and business property inequities between communities that affect business location.
- Give municipalities the power to set up a special tax category for 'Main Street' businesses
- Give cities the power to prevent the demolition of affordable housing and heritage properties
- Amend the Municipal Act to broaden the authority of municipalities to act in the interest of their citizens
- Give Toronto and possibly other large cities the power and charter status to negotiate directly with the federal government over funding and other issues
- A 'no-download' legal guarantee to property taxpayers. If the provincial government requires municipalities to increase spending, that cost will be borne by the province, not the property taxpayer.

Practical Solution 5: REVITALIZE RURAL ONTARIO AND PROVIDE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Rural communities in Ontario are feeling the squeeze. Deteriorating roads and water systems, lack of access to family doctors, community schools forced to close, no support for small businesses, and a host of other issues have people in rural Ontario feeling left off the political priority list. Instead of a focused and effective rural strategy, the Conservatives have neglected and ignored rural communities, save for the occasional giveaway at election time. They privatized rail service and road maintenance, leaving Northern communities feeling more isolated and endangered. The result is depressed rural economies that are unable to provide opportunities to retain young families.

publicpower means working to help rural communities fulfill their true economic potential and maintain the high quality of life they offer so our sons and daughters don't feel compelled to move away for good jobs and a decent public education.

Howard Hampton and the NDP have a practical plan to support a quality way of life in rural Ontario. It includes:

- scrapping the Conservatives' hydro privatization and deregulation scheme and ensuring accountable, public hydro at cost. Ontario farmers and other small businesses understand the importance of affordable, reliable not-for-profit public power. The NDP plan would also include real incentives to help people save energy and lower their bills; invest in renewable energy such as wind and solar power; and ensure electricity rates are pooled and kept stable across rural Ontario.
- Stop the closing of community schools that devastates rural and smaller communities and extends student transportation times to unacceptable levels.
- Open 100 new Community Health Centres across Ontario with priority given to communities that have the greatest need for nurses, doctors and other medical professionals.
- Ensure adequate funding for policing, so communities would not be forced to hire lesser trained private security companies to feel safe.
- Introduce minimum response times for all emergency services in rural Ontario and provide support where needed for firefighters and paramedics.

- Fix and maintain vital rural infrastructure – water and sewage, roads, community centres and arenas. Scrap the bureaucratic and mismanaged Ontario Small Town and Rural (OSTAR) program and replace it with a Rural Infrastructure Action Fund to provide much-needed funding.
- Expand on the successful Contact North by providing increased access to high speed and broadband internet access. This would support health care, provide distance learning opportunities and attract new businesses.
- Implement Grow Ontario venture capital funds to encourage investment in farms and rural small businesses.
- Provide fair prices and a stable income for farmers and their families by developing, in consultation with farmers and farm organizations, a new commodity pricing system that ensures producers receive a fair price for the food they grow, thus reducing and eventually eliminating the need for subsidies. Use the savings from the reduction in subsidies to establish a fund to stabilize farm income in emergencies.
- Establish an independent, self-sufficient pension fund for farmers.
- Support farmers making the transition to production of organic foods, non-genetically modified foods and fibres.
- Support the production of crops for alternative fuels such as ethanol and bio-diesel and develop a local market for those commodities by requiring five per cent ethanol in gas by 2007 and 10 per cent by 2010. The NDP would also commit the province to using ethanol and bio-diesel for its own fleet of vehicles and require all new municipal fleets and transit services to use ethanol and bio-diesel.
- Defend and support the supply management system in order to ensure a sustainable agricultural sector in Ontario

Practical Solution 6: Revitalize downtown business and cultural areas with a dedicated Dynamic Downtown Fund.

publicpower means vibrant main streets and downtowns that are safe, thriving retail, cultural and entertainment centres. It means downtowns built for people.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would revitalize our main streets and town centres through a special, dedicated Dynamic Downtown Fund. This additional \$300 million a year fund would be guaranteed, along with other provincial funding commitments, to:

- fix up heritage buildings.
- increase funding for the Ontario Arts Council, improve artists' working conditions through Status of the Artist legislation and invest in community cultural work.
- clean-up "brown field sites", former industrial sites that could be put to new uses.
- new downtown parks and public spaces and restoration of existing ones.
- provide capital support for dynamic cultural facilities like museums, theatres and music venues.
- fix up and develop waterfront areas.
- help build architecturally impressive new public buildings.

Practical Solutions for Fairness at Work and in Retirement



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for fairness at work and in retirement:

- Protect your pension by tying it to the cost of living.
- Protect savings.
- Immediately increase the minimum wage to \$8 an hour.
- Protect jobs and end picket line violence by banning scabs.
- Give a long-awaited raise to 100,000 women by fully supporting proxy pay equity
- Modernize workplace laws by repealing the 60-hour workweek, cracking down on sweatshops and extending workplace protection to agricultural workers.
- Take strong action to reduce workplace deaths and ensure safe workplaces. Reform workers' compensation so that injured workers are treated fairly.
- Develop fresh approaches to fair and barrier-free employment practices.
- Make Civic Holiday and Heritage Day statutory holidays so all Ontarians can benefit.

Every year it gets harder for Ontario families to make ends meet. If you work for minimum wage or depend on social assistance, the Conservatives have frozen your income for more than eight years. If you've been saving for retirement, you have probably watched your hard-earned mutual fund savings disappear. Whether you work in the automobile or steel industry, in a sawmill or supermarket, layoffs, increasing job stress, deteriorating workplace safety and scabs or strikebreakers have become commonplace. But not everybody is feeling like you. While thousands saw their pension savings blow away in Nortel's spectacular fall, the presidents and CEOs of Nortel and companies like it were walking away with millions in stock options, bonuses and profits.

You don't expect something for nothing. But when you work hard you have a right to the good life as much as anyone else. It's about fairness and opportunity.

publicpower means every woman, man and child should have as much of an opportunity as anyone else to make a good living, live a good life and retire with dignity.

Practical Solution 1: Protect your pension by tying it to the cost of living.

A lifetime of hard work and providing for your family should not leave you struggling when you retire. You, and everyone else who is looking forward to retirement, helped build this province and have the right to a life of dignity and fulfillment once you stop working. You want to know your retirement money is going to be there when you need it.

However, your pension savings are at risk. During the fall of 2002, the Conservatives attempted to allow employers to dip into workers' pension plans and remove surplus funds. People like Ed O'Brien, one of over 1000 former National Trust employees, would have been denied any share of a \$20 million surplus in his pension plan, a plan that he had paid into over many years. Only pressure from the NDP's Gilles Bisson and Peter Kormos, the Ontario Federation of Labour and workers across the province forced the Conservatives to back down and withdraw the legislation. This was an important victory, but there is much more to be done to secure hard-earned pension funds.



Howard Hampton and the NDP would require inflation protection for all defined benefit pensions so you don't fall farther behind as the cost of everything goes up. The NDP's Practical Solutions for your pension also include:

- vesting from day one
- improve pension portability to let you take your pension with you from job to job
- protect pension surpluses from raids by unscrupulous employers
- give employees a real say in the management of their pension funds
- immediately increase the maximum guaranteed benefit of \$1,000 under the Ontario Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund
- make it easier for small and medium size businesses to opt into group pension plans as a first step to ensuring that as many working people as possible are covered by secure, defined benefit pension plans.

Practical Solution 2: Protecting savings.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would make sure corporate Ontario cleans up its act. People who invest their hard-earned retirement money in a mutual fund, RRSP or company shares deserve honesty and better protection. The NDP has a detailed plan to ensure that Enron and WorldCom – where thousands lost their life savings because of corporate corruption – can and will not happen here. **No Enrons in Ontario** includes:

- ensure the Ontario Securities Commission has the tools to properly regulate the stock market and protect ordinary investors.
- establish an independent Public Accounting Board to investigate and discipline public auditors who violate professional standards. Scandals such as those involving Enron and WorldCom were first and foremost accounting scandals.
- urge the federal government to move immediately to strengthen Criminal Code provisions regarding corporate fraud.
- protect the thousands of Ontarians who have much of their RRSPs in mutual funds by requiring a governing body, independent of the fund manager, for specific mutual funds.

Practical Solution 3: Immediately increase the minimum wage to \$8 an hour.

Many hard-working men and women are struggling to support themselves and their families on wages at or near the minimum wage. While the cost of living keeps going up, the minimum wage has been frozen at \$6.85 for over eight years. It's time for a raise!

An immediate raise in the minimum wage to \$8 would be comparable to the minimum wage in our major trading partner, the United States. It would be an important first step towards a fair and liveable wage.

Raising the minimum wage immediately would also be good for our local economies. People with low and moderate incomes spend their money in the community, at neighbourhood stores and on local services. Raising the minimum wage is good for all of us, including small businesses.

The Liberals say they'll phase in an increase by 2007. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** say the minimum wage must be increased immediately or people will only fall farther behind. Only **Howard Hampton and the NDP** have been consistent and strong on calling for a higher minimum wage **NOW**.

Practical Solution 4: Protect jobs and end picket line violence by banning scabs.

When the Conservatives repealed the NDP's law banning scabs, the number of productive days lost to strikes increased, and so did violence on picket lines. Within the system of labour relations and collective bargaining that works well for employers, workers and our economy, workers have a legal right to strike for better wages and working conditions. When strikebreakers, or scabs, are allowed to take the jobs that belong to hardworking workers who are just exercising their legal rights, frustration mounts and violence can occur. This has been the story in Conservative Ontario. When a young man, father of two, was run over and seriously injured on a picket line at Navistar in Chatham, the blame rested squarely on the doorstep of the Conservative government.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would immediately ban scabs from all workplaces in Ontario.

Practical Solution 5: Give a long-awaited raise to 100,000 women by fully supporting proxy pay equity

Howard Hampton and the NDP believe that if you work hard and play by the rules, you and your children should have the same shot at a good life as anybody else. But, for over 100,000 of the lowest paid women workers in Ontario, the Conservatives changed the rules. These are women working in child care centres and as home care providers, the people you depend on to care for you, your children, your parents. In 1999 the Courts agreed that these workers had a right to a fair wage, but the Conservatives ignored the ruling.

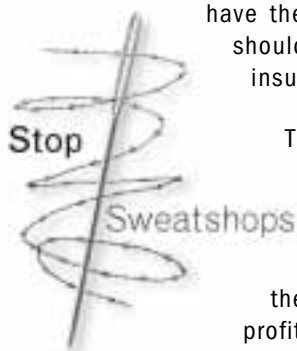
Howard Hampton and the NDP would give child care and other women workers the raise they deserve under the law. The NDP would support proxy pay equity and restore the right to a fair wage taken away by the Conservatives.

Practical Solution 6: Modernize workplace laws by repealing the 60-hour workweek, crack down on sweatshops and extend workplace protection to agricultural workers.

There is no question that people are working longer and harder than ever before. One in four Canadians is now working more than 50 hours a week, compared with only one in ten a decade ago. And, if you are like the vast majority of people, you know you are working harder but falling farther behind.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would move quickly to re-balance labour relations and modernize rules that protect women and men in their workplaces.

There is no place for a 60-hour workweek in the 21st century. Sweatshops, where mostly women work in hazardous conditions for less than minimum wage, must be shut down. Agricultural workers should have the same rights to safe workplaces as anyone else and should be protected by occupational health, workplace insurance and labour laws.



The Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled that workers in the agri-business, such as those packing mushrooms or working in industrial greenhouses, have a right to be treated fairly and to bargain collectively just like any other workers in Ontario. The Court was not talking about the family farm but the large industrial businesses where profits are huge and workers, many of them migrants, have annual incomes of less than \$5,000. The Conservatives flouted the Court ruling and imposed legislation again denying workers basic rights to fairness. The McGuinty Liberals voted with the Conservatives. Only **Howard Hampton and the NDP** said the Charter of Rights must be respected and agricultural workers have a right to be treated fairly.

“Forced overtime: the Conservatives said it couldn’t happen. But our predictions of forced overtime have come true for Toyota workers who are currently petitioning the Labour Relations Board for the right to say ‘no’ to overtime. Of course, hydro rates weren’t supposed to go up either.”

-Peter Kormos, NDP Labour Critic, MPP Niagara Centre

Practical Solution 7: Take strong action to reduce workplace deaths and ensure safe workplaces. Reform workers’ compensation so that injured workers are treated fairly.

It’s 2003 and workers are still getting killed on the job, many in preventable accidents. Lack of adequate inspections and monitoring, insufficient notice to workers of their right to safe working conditions; and the increasing stress caused by crushing workloads, 60-hour workweeks, fewer breaks, the drive to produce faster and more, lead to more workplace deaths every year – 304 in the year 2000 alone.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would require the prominent posting of notices alerting workers to their right to refuse dangerous work, mandatory on-site inspections when workers exercise this right, and Coroner's Inquests for all workplace deaths. The NDP would also restore mandatory reporting of all new toxic substances introduced into workplaces and require workplace education for new employees, including the right to refuse to work with toxins that could endanger one's health. Those who have been injured on the job and receive compensation from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board should have their benefits fully tied to the cost of living.

Practical Solution 8: Develop fresh approaches to fair and barrier-free employment practices.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would move quickly to enact legislation to ensure fairness and equity in recruitment, hiring and promotion in ways that open doors, are based on the principle of employment equity and are widely accepted as fair. Internationally-trained workers who lack Canadian credentials would be helped to work in their chosen trades and professions with comprehensive Access to Professions and Trades policies.

Practical Solution 9: Make Civic Holiday and Heritage Day statutory holidays so all Ontarians can benefit.

The people of Ontario work hard, they deserve adequate holidays. France and the U.K. each have 13 statutory holidays, the United States has 11 and Ontario has only eight. People have talked about adding Heritage Day, a day to celebrate our diversity, in February or June. More than 80 per cent of people polled say they want another long weekend in spring and/or summer.

But the government has not listened.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would establish a new Heritage Day statutory holiday. In addition, the August Civic Holiday, that unfairly now applies only to some workers, would be made a statutory holiday so everybody in Ontario can enjoy some well-deserved time with family.

Practical Solutions for Affordable Tuition



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for Affordable Tuition:

- Cut college and university tuition by 10 per cent and ensure no student is denied a quality education or training for financial reasons.
- Implement a new student assistance plan so students can look forward to a good job, not huge debt.
- New School2Work Guarantee to ensure all young people between the ages of 16-19 and not in school, have access to a job placement, training/apprenticeship, or academic upgrading opportunity.
- Scrap plans to introduce private universities to Ontario.

publicpower means every young woman or man who gets a quality education at an Ontario public college or university, is an investment in all of our future.

publicpower means every qualified student should have access to job training and post-secondary education.

This spring, parents and students across the province are facing the cold reality of the “double cohort” – because the Conservatives slashed budgets and failed to plan for the increased applications this year. Untold numbers of students who should be looking forward to starting their college or university education in September will, instead, be left out in the cold.

For our young people, for people who have been working and seek to upgrade their skills, the double cohort is just another kick in the teeth from a short-sighted government that doesn’t understand how restricting a college and university education only to those who can afford it is bad for all of us.

The Conservatives have allowed a staggering increase in post-secondary tuition fees and an equally staggering increase in student debt. Study after study proves it: high tuition fees tilt the playing field in favour of students from wealthy backgrounds and make it harder for students from middle and modest-income families to attend college and university. In a January 2003 poll, 77 per cent said they were concerned their children would not be able to attend university and an overwhelming 83 per cent blamed this on the combination of higher tuition fees and universities’ lack of money to expand. We live in a knowledge economy and a well-educated workforce is our greatest asset, yet more and more young people are being denied a fair chance at an education.

When a middle income family must choose between their daughter’s or son’s college education or saving for retirement, something is wrong. But this is exactly what is happening in thousands of homes across the province.

Practical Solution 1: Cut college and university tuition by 10 per cent and ensure no student is denied a quality education or training for financial reasons

Howard Hampton and the NDP would immediately reduce college and university tuition fees by 10 per cent. Deregulated tuitions, at law, medical and business schools, would be rolled back and re-regulated. It’s not acceptable if only the children of the wealthy few can become doctors and lawyers.

Under the Conservatives, per capita funding for post-secondary education has fallen almost to the bottom in North America. The NDP would reinvest to bring Ontario’s funding to at least the national average. Colleges and universities should not be forced to choose between increasing tuition or cutting vital programs.

“Higher education isn’t only a private good benefiting the individual; it’s a public good that benefits society...Every time a student, discouraged by the cost of tuition or caps on programs, drops out, we all lose – just as we lose every time a worker is discouraged from upgrading skills.”

– Janice MacKinnon, author and professor, *Globe & Mail*, January 16, 2003.

“The deregulation that I am most familiar with at this time, aside from hydro, is university tuition. I am a mom, I have three children, one is a university student in her 2nd year...I am well aware of the enormous financial burden the provincial and federal governments have put on our young people through deregulation of tuition and lack of funding for education. I believe deregulation of essential publicly funded services is a very bad thing for the public.”

– B.M., email, Nov. 18,

Practical Solution 2: Implement a new student assistance plan so students can look forward to a good job, not huge debt.

“First there was the flipping and flopping over hydro policy and now there is this major retreat on post-secondary tuition fees.”

—Peter Kormos, NDP House Leader, commenting on Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty’s flip flop on college and university tuition fees. In the 1999 election, McGuinty said he would reduce tuition fees, now, even though fees are much higher, he refuses to commit to reduce tuition.

Too often student debt is a barrier to a good education and a good job. Conservative cuts to Ontario’s student loans have meant 40 per cent fewer students receive help to attend college and university. One telling indication of how serious the Conservatives have allowed students’ hardship to become is the proliferation of food banks on college and university campuses. Ten years ago there were no on-campus food banks. Last year there were 12. This year there are 20, and five more campuses will have food banks by the fall of 2003. This must not be allowed to continue.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would implement a new student assistance plan that would help all who qualify. It would provide up-front grant assistance and also help those receiving Ontario Disability Support Program or social assistance benefits or those who are part-time students.

Practical Solution 3: Implement a new School2Work Guarantee to ensure all young people between the ages of 16-19 and not in school, have access to a job placement, training/apprenticeship, or academic upgrading opportunity.

Howard Hampton and the NDP know the importance of making the smooth transition from school to work and finding that first job. The NDP’s School2Work Guarantee would ensure every young person between the ages of 16 and 19, not already enrolled as a full-time student, would have a job, a job training placement such as apprenticeship, or access to an academic upgrading opportunity. Here’s how the School2Work Guarantee would work:

- Expand the number of subsidized training seats specifically provided to unemployed young people at community colleges, boards of education and other training facilities. Priority would be put on giving young people the skills that are in high demand in the job market.
- Expand the number of academic upgrading opportunities available to unemployed young people, particularly in areas such as Grade 12 Math or English which are often requirements for entry level jobs.
- Provide job placement assistance and private sector wage subsidies to unemployed young people who are already “job ready” but just need a little extra help to land that all-important job.
- Double the number of regulated apprenticeship opportunities available to young people under a reformed apprenticeship program.



Anybody willing to work hard and learn should have the chance to acquire a trade. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** believe strongly that the best way to provide training in the skilled trades is through on-the-job apprenticeships. For years, Ontario had a unified apprenticeship system that combined quality on-the-job training with in-school learning. Then the Conservative government gutted the system and split it into two – with industrial trades governed by a new Act while the construction trades continued to operate under the old legislation.

In doubling the number of students participating in registered apprenticeship programs, the NDP would:

- Ensure all apprenticeable trades are regulated by one piece of legislation, thereby ending fragmentation.
- Expand the use of regulated apprenticeship to new trades and ensure that high quality, regulated training is accessible to all who want it.
- Ensure compulsory certification covers as many regulated trades as possible. Compulsory certification ensures that only workers who have obtained their “papers” by completing the full apprenticeship program are allowed to work in certain designated trades. Compulsory certification ensures increased flexibility and mobility, as well as higher standards, higher skill levels and increased public safety and consumer protection.



Practical Solution 4: Tell McUniversities they're not welcome in Ontario

We've seen it with our hydro: first create a crisis, claim the public can't afford it, then privatize it. But, like hydro, our public college and university system belongs to all of us. There is no place for private universities – McUniversities – in Ontario.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would say No to private universities. The NDP would scrap plans for a special Private Institutions Branch in the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and put the money back where it belongs, in our public colleges and universities.

“Private universities are a drain on the public purse, more expensive to students, and prone to mismanagement that leaves students and citizens on the hook.”

– Rosario Marchese, NDP Education critic

Practical Solutions for Affordable, Quality Child Care



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for Affordable, Quality Child Care:

- Make child care affordable for all Ontario families by reducing fees to \$10 a day for children aged 18 months to 5 years now enrolled in non-profit, regulated care.
- Make child care accessible by creating 20,000 new \$10 a day non-profit spaces.
- Support quality early childhood educators and child care workers with fair wages.
- Support children's services by expanding the existing Family Resource Program network.

Quality child care is in everybody's interest. Studies overwhelmingly prove the importance of early learning to a child's potential to grow and excel in life. There is little that's more important.

But, the Conservatives have cut \$90 million from regulated child care. Since 1997, the average household cost of child care has increased 65 per cent. Today, Ontario families pay more for child care than families anywhere in Canada. Centres and regulated child care spaces are closing. Conservative policies are forcing parents to turn to unsupervised care from unqualified caregivers.

And the Liberal plan for child care? Just more expensive fees, private care and compromised quality for our children. The Liberals are proposing a voucher system that will only produce more low-quality, for-profit care and higher fees.

Is affordable, accessible regulated child care a dream? No. Québec has proven that it can be done. In Québec, a similar expansion of the child care system is incredibly effective because it deals with the problem modern families face: how to find quality child care at an affordable price so that parents can work?

Shelley Martel, NDP Critic for Children, has been across the province talking with parents and early childhood educators. She has heard the message loud and clear: Ontario families cannot work without child care. There is a practical solution: affordable, high quality and accessible child care.

“Ontario parents are paying higher child care fees than any other parents in the country. That is a direct result of the Conservative government's funding cuts to regulated child care. The most critical issue for most parents right now is affordability.”

– Shelley Martel, NDP critic for children

publicpower means Ontario children get safe, quality care. It means Ontario children get the best possible start in life and arrive at school ready to learn.

publicpower means Ontario families get quality care for their children, regardless of income or where they live.

publicpower means adding child care spaces, and adding and renovating centres.

publicpower means recognizing the valuable work done by early childhood educators.

Practical Solution 1: Make child care affordable for all Ontario families by reducing fees to \$10 a day for children ages 18 months to 5 years now enrolled in non-profit, regulated care.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would reduce full fees paid by parents to \$10 a day for children aged 18 months to 5 years now enrolled in non-profit, regulated home and centre-based child care.



Practical Solution 2: Make child care accessible by creating 20,000 new \$10 a day non-profit spaces.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would dramatically expand safe, quality child care in Ontario by creating 20,000 new \$10 a day child care spaces over four years in non-profit settings.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would provide capital funds to repair and expand existing child care centres and build new ones.



Practical Solution 3: Support quality early childhood educators and child care workers with fair wages.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would ensure children receive quality care by trained early childhood educators. That requires fully funding proxy pay equity for child care staff and additional wage grants for early childhood educators, and working with early childhood educators to enhance training and professional standards.

Practical Solution 4: Support children's services

Howard Hampton and the NDP would expand the existing Family Resource Program network.

Practical Solution 5: Support low income families

Howard Hampton and the NDP would ensure no family in Ontario would pay more for child care under the NDP plan by maintaining existing fee subsidies for low income parents.



Practical Solution 6: Create seamless, integrated early learning programs that link child care to school

Howard Hampton and the NDP would implement a comprehensive early learning strategy that includes funding full-day Junior and Senior kindergarten, requiring that every new school include a child care centre, and including child care centres under the education funding formula.

Practical Solutions for Safer Communities



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for Safer Communities:

- Implement strict zero tolerance for racially and ethnically motivated hate crimes.
- Create an independent, civilian police complaints commission to promote police accountability and police/community relations.
- Improve community policing and safety and focus on preventing crime with a new Community Safety Charter.
- Combat violence against women with a comprehensive "Freedom from Fear" strategy.
- Tackle the causes of youth crime and violence with the "Building Hope Action Plan."
- Ensure safety and security in our jails and young offender facilities by scrapping privatization.

publicpower means nobody should have to live in fear in his or her everyday life. Every woman, child and man deserves to be safe, happy and healthy. However, the disturbing increase in the number of racially and ethnically motivated hate crimes, particularly in the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, reminds us of the responsibility we all share to promote fairness and tolerance.

Practical Solution 1: Implement strict zero tolerance for racially and ethnically motivated hate crimes.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would build on our history of tolerance and mutual respect by creating a new Anti-Discrimination Secretariat. Working with communities, municipal councils and police chiefs, the Secretariat would investigate serious reports of racial, ethnic and religious intolerance and provide new and innovative ways of promoting understanding within an increasingly diverse and multicultural population.

Practical Solution 2: Create an independent, civilian police complaints commission to promote police accountability and police/community relations.

Reports of racial profiling – confirmed as recently as January 17, 2003, by a Crown Attorney in open court – confirm evidence documented by the Commission into Systemic Racism in the Justice System, established by NDP Leader Howard Hampton when he was Attorney General. Leadership is required to ensure everyone is treated fairly and feels that way under the law. As a start, the NDP would quickly establish an independent, civilian police complaints commission as called for in Howard Hampton's Bill 220. An independent commission would be empowered to probe allegations of police misconduct quickly and fairly in a neutral forum so people can air their concerns without feeling intimidated.

“ The NDP has repeatedly highlighted the problem of racial profiling at the U.S. border, where members of Arab and Muslim communities are being photographed and fingerprinted.”
– Toronto Star, January 6, 2003

Practical Solution 3: Improve community policing and safety and focus on preventing crime with a new Community Safety Charter.

publicpower means feeling safe, whether you are in your home or walking the streets of your community. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** would work with police forces to set up community-directed policing programs, emphasizing partnership and on-foot police presence. Community standards would be developed from the ground up, not top down, and police service boards would be made more representative of the communities they serve. More police officers need to be hired to stop the spread of private policing. The NDP would introduce a Community Safety Charter to set out minimum standards of safety and security for every Ontarian.

publicpower also means getting tough on crime wherever it is found. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** would ensure greater resources for effective and timely prosecution of all serious offences, including crime driven by greed, such as so-called white collar crimes like corporate fraud and environmental infractions. At the same time, we need to reduce the waiting time for compensation to victims of crime.





Practical Solution 4: Combat violence against women with a comprehensive “Freedom from Fear” strategy.

Ontario today faces a dramatic increase in violence that threatens the lives of women and children across our province. According to Statistics Canada, spousal homicides alone have jumped 25 per cent under the Conservatives. Two years ago a coalition of 165 community groups warned the Conservatives of a growing crisis requiring emergency measures to address violence against women. The Provincial Auditor revealed that women and children were being turned away from overcrowded women’s shelters in eight out of Ontario’s nine regions. Two inquests into spousal homicides - May-Iles and Hadley - provided the blueprint for action. The Conservatives chose to ignore the warnings and refused to protect women.

The Conservatives have focused on the criminal justice system at the exclusion of everything else. Their diversion of funding away from services for women and children has had tragic results. Their strategy has failed women and children.

Women’s safety depends on their ability to access the means to protect and support their children and themselves. Without fair and equal access to housing, work, and income supports, women are made victims. Without equitable legal, anti-violence and neighbourhood supports and services, women are left increasingly defenseless against abuse.

Howard Hampton and the NDP will combat violence against women with a comprehensive “Freedom from Fear” strategy that provides women the social, economic and legal tools to protect themselves and their families from abuse:

- Fund community-based services for women and children through neighbourhood supports and through emergency services such as crisis lines, shelter funding, a \$3.6 million second stage housing allocation and sexual assault and rape crisis centres.
- Fund legal reforms and services that provide women equal protection and representation, including legal aid to cover family law, and the implementation of Arlene May and Gillian Hadley inquest recommendations.
- Ensure that women have the economic supports to flee their abusers and to protect themselves and their children: build more affordable housing geared-to-income; increase shelter allowances to 85 per cent of average rent; raise the minimum wage immediately to \$8 an hour; stop the National Child Tax Benefit clawback; create a \$10 a day child care plan for regulated, non-profit care while maintaining current subsidies for low-income families and create 20,000 new spaces; and fund pay equity.
- Recognize and fund the ignored need for services and advocacy for aboriginal women, women of colour, recent immigrants and women with disabilities.
- Fund violence against women advocacy organizations.

Practical Solution 5: Tackle the causes of youth crime and violence with the “Building Hope Action Plan.”

Howard Hampton and the NDP would move to implement the Building Hope Action Plan, developed by the NDP in partnership with ethnocultural communities and African-Canadians in particular. The Building Hope Action Plan tackles the causes of youth crime and violence by, for example, funding the Black Court Worker Program to ensure intervention at key points for youth in the criminal justice system.

Practical Solution 6: Ensure safety and security in our jails and young offender facilities by scrapping privatization.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would put community safety ahead of private profit. NDP Justice Critic Peter Kormos introduced a bill that would have cancelled the Conservatives’ plans to build a private super-jail. Instead, the Conservatives forged ahead with their private super-jail that forced inmates to wear racial identification tags and caused safety concerns in the community. The private, for-profit young offender Boot Camp has been plagued by escapes from the day it opened.

The Conservatives’ obsession with privatizing jails and young offenders facilities wasted time and resources that would have been better spent on parole and probation officers, public jails and programs to keep our communities safe in the first place. In 2002, the Provincial Auditor revealed that only 600 of more than 3,000 sex offenders being supervised by the Conservatives’ Ministry of Public Safety and Security, were receiving appropriate programs. The Government had not completed the risk and needs assessments for many offenders that helps prevent re-offending. And under the Conservatives, there are 10,000 arrest warrants outstanding for offenders.

publicpower means jails and young offender facilities would be brought under full public, non-profit ownership and operation. We would put the Correction back into Corrections by bringing back programs that develop skills and prepare prisoners adequately for law-abiding life upon release.

Practical Solutions for a More Democratic and Just Ontario



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for a More Democratic and Just Ontario:

- Ensure everyone has a fair say in how his or her elected representatives are chosen. Introduce Proportional Representation and strict expenditure controls, including a ban on taxpayer-funded political propaganda, so citizens would have an equal say and nobody would be able to buy an election and political influence.
- Increase accountability to taxpayers by expanding freedom of information legislation. No more nasty surprises like the Highway 407 toll increases and Eleanor Clitheroe's golden handshake.
- Ensure fairness for people with disabilities by passing laws with real teeth, including a Charter of Rights for Persons with Disabilities.
- Link Ontario Disability Support Program assistance to the cost of living and overhaul the complicated and frustrating application process.
- Provide fair support to those on social assistance by ending the arbitrary lifetime ban and reviewing social assistance to cover the cost of living.
- Guarantee First Nations communities a fair share of revenues from resource development on their traditional lands.
- Call an immediate public inquiry into the killing of Dudley George at Ipperwash Provincial Park in September 1995.

If you work hard and play by the rules, you and your children should have the same shot at the good life as anybody else, including a good job, a safe community and a secure retirement. It should not matter how much money you have in your pocket, where you were born, where you live, whether you have a disability, what your gender is and what your sexual orientation is. That's what democracy and equality are all about. In a word: fairness.

The NDP has a long history of fighting for equality and fairness, even when it is not popular, because it is the right thing to do.

Today, as a direct result of policies of the Ontario Conservatives and Liberals in Ottawa, some people have more opportunities than others. **publicpower** is about changing that. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** have practical solutions that will make a difference.

Practical Solution 1: Giving everybody an equal say. Your vote is your say.

If you think government never listens and doesn't represent you, you're probably right. In each of the last two Ontario elections, the Conservatives got 45 per cent of the vote but won over 50 per cent of the seats. They've had almost total power to ram through legislation and run the province. And more than half of Ontario voters never wanted them. Fairness starts with our government and the current system is not fair. That's why more and more people don't even bother to vote anymore, and those who do are increasingly disgusted by the government's failure to listen to them.

There is a better way. It's called Proportional Representation. Under Proportional Representation every vote counts the same. If no political party wins a majority, then they will have to work together to provide good, responsive government. Proportional Representation works very well in many other countries and it's time Canada and Ontario caught up.



Howard Hampton and the NDP would move quickly to implement Proportional Representation in Ontario. First, we would establish an independent commission to hold public hearings and determine the details of the best model of Proportional Representation. Then, the people would have their say in a referendum. If it passes, Proportional Representation would be in effect for the next election.

Having a fair say is more than Proportional Representation. If you have money, you have the opportunity to have much more influence over government, between as well as during elections.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would institute strict spending limits by political parties. We would cut in half the amount parties can spend on elections at the provincial level and close loopholes that allow huge expenditures, like polling, to be exempt from spending limits. Contribution limits should be reduced. Spending between elections and contributions to party leadership contests would also be subject to these strict limits. Government would not be permitted to pay for political propaganda with taxpayers' money. Disclosure of contributions would need to be made in "real time" so you can see who is paying for a politician's election campaign BEFORE you vote, not some months later.

Finally, many people who move frequently or who are New Canadians are losing their say because they are left off the permanent voters' list. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** would continue to support Elections Ontario in making the voters' list as up-to-date as possible, but would also bring back enumeration to ensure everyone can vote who is entitled to vote.

Practical Solution 2: Increase accountability to taxpayers by expanding access to government information.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would greatly expand the Freedom of Information legislation to give citizens more access to the documents they pay for as taxpayers. This includes making all agreements relating to contracting out of government services available on the Internet 60 days before they are finalized. We would lift the cloak of secrecy around hydro dealings and other hush-hush government business. We don't need any more nasty surprises like the unlimited toll increases allowed the private corporations that bought Highway 407 or the hushed circumstances around government privatization deals. Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation would no longer be exempt from Freedom of Information.

The NDP would also require public impact statements to be released with each major government decision so people can see the alternatives available to the government when it made its decision. Finally, **publicpower** means greater public opportunity for input into government legislation before it is passed, including mandatory public committee hearings where there is no unanimous consent of the Legislature or public emergency.

Practical Solution 3: Ensure fairness for people with disabilities by passing laws with real teeth.

Everyone has an interest in ensuring people with disabilities are treated fairly. There are over 1.9 million people in Ontario with disabilities and if you or a family member does not have a disability now, you likely will in the future. **publicpower** means that people with disabilities should have the same rights to get good jobs, good education, access good health care, travel by public transit, live in affordable housing and be safe without facing barriers.

Last year the Conservatives finally passed a watered down Ontarians with Disabilities Act, but people with disabilities are still waiting for regulations and standards. People with disabilities have waiting long enough for fairness.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would move quickly to:

- Link Ontario Disability Support Program payments to the cost of living. Too many people with disabilities are forced to live below the poverty line.
- Overhaul the current complicated and frustrating process of applying for Ontario Disability Support Program assistance.
- Ensure that 10 per cent of new affordable housing in urban areas and 5 per cent of new affordable housing in rural areas are built fully accessible, while making sure all accessible units have subsidies available if needed.
- Ensure prompt assessment of special needs children and education supports they need within the public school system.
- Ensure that post-secondary grants are available to accommodate the extra time many disabled students need to complete their college and university degrees.
- Dedicate a portion of increased transit funding to fully accessible transit.
- Audit and catalogue all programs and services for people with disabilities and create a single coordinating body for easy access to programs and information.
- Move toward flexibility and choice in funding and provision of services that work for the individualized needs of people living with disabilities, such as home care.
- Work with people with disabilities to enact a strong Ontarians with Disabilities Act within the first year of government that sets enforceable guidelines and timelines for all sectors.
- Ensure fairness with a Charter of Rights for Persons with Disabilities that would include specific commitments to accessible public transit and accessible and affordable housing.

Practical Solution 4: Provide fair support to those on social assistance by ending the arbitrary lifetime ban and reviewing social assistance rates to cover the cost of living.

The Kimberly Rogers Coroner's Inquest was about the death of a pregnant young woman who was sentenced to house arrest for social assistance fraud – she was receiving social assistance at the same time she was trying to go to school and was receiving a student loan. The Coroner's Jury made 14 recommendations for change including: the end of the lifetime ban from social assistance and a review of social assistance rates to actually cover the cost of living.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would ensure Kimberly Rogers is not forgotten. The NDP would take immediate action to implement the Coroner's Jury recommendations. People like Kimberly Rogers deserve the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. We need the courage and leadership to say the system didn't work for Kimberly Rogers, it's time for change.

To help people break out of poverty and into decent housing and a good job, the NDP would:

- Increase the shelter allowance for people on social assistance to 85 per cent of the average rent in their community.
- Stop the clawback of the Child Tax Benefit Supplement from social assistance recipients, expand employment incentives to help people on social assistance move into the workforce, and index Ontario Disability Support Program benefits to inflation.
- Expand employment incentives to help people on social assistance move into the workforce.
- Pressure the Liberals in Ottawa to allow those who leave the paid workforce to care for children, sick or elderly relatives to catch up on Canada Pension Plan contributions.

“The Kimberly Rogers Inquest put the Conservative government's punitive social assistance agenda on trial. Now that the problems in the system have been exposed, anything less than immediate corrective action will constitute government negligence of the highest order.”

– Tony Martin, MPP Sault Ste. Marie, NDP Poverty Critic.

Practical Solution 5: Treat our First Nations with respect and fairness.

publicpower means guaranteeing First Nations communities a fair share of revenues from resource development on their traditional lands. Only a revenue sharing agreement, developed in consultation with First Nations communities and other levels of government, will ensure economic self-sufficiency for First Nations and that everyone shares equally in the development of the North's mining, logging and other resources. While municipalities automatically share in the proceeds of projects within their boundaries through local taxation, First Nations have become accustomed to watching revenues from their lands flow south.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would commit to working cooperatively with First Nations, government to government, a relationship of mutual respect. Any forestry, mining or hydro-electric development strategies must respect aboriginal and treaty rights.

In addition, the NDP would expand Aboriginal justice programs, revise the school curriculum to reflect the historic contributions of First Nations, and reopen negotiations, abruptly terminated by the Conservatives, with Northern First Nations to provide fire protection and reduce evacuations of First Nations communities as a result of forest fires.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would immediately call a public inquiry – long overdue and blocked by the Conservative government – into the killing of Dudley George at Ipperwash Provincial Park in September, 1995.

Practical Solutions for Fair Taxes and a Strong Economy



Howard Hampton and the NDP's Practical Solutions for Fair Taxes and a Strong Economy:

- Dedicate a new Education Excellence Fund to allow for the full, immediate restoration of \$2 billion to our education system, supporting the NDP plan to make every school an excellent school.
- Fair corporate taxes that close loopholes and restore corporate taxes to levels competitive with neighbouring U.S. states.
- Implement a Jobs Strategy for all Ontarians, including an auto sector strategy to maintain and grow jobs in Ontario.
- Implement a Northern Ontario Development strategy to create and maintain good jobs and economic opportunities in Northern Ontario.

publicpower means each of us paying our fair share. But this only works as long as the tax burden really is shared fairly. Ontario's middle income taxpayers know they already pay their fair share of taxes. Unfortunately, the Conservative tax cuts only made the tax system more unfair. Currently an individual with an income of \$164,700 a year pays the same top tax rate as an individual with an income of just \$64,700. It's hard to see that this is fair.

Practical Solution 1: Education Excellence Fund – Investing in our Future.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would add two new fair tax brackets: one on individual income between \$100,000 and \$150,000 and one for individual income over \$150,000. For somebody making \$105,000 a year, this would mean paying \$150 more. Somebody making less than \$100,000 would pay no more than they do now.

These two fair tax brackets alone would raise \$1.5 billion annually for our Education Excellence Fund.

That entire amount - \$1.5 billion - would be invested in public education. The Mordechai Rozanski report confirmed that \$2.1 billion is needed in our schools - but the Conservatives responded with only \$610 million in 2002-03. The NDP Education Excellence Fund would guarantee immediate implementation of the full Rozanski recommendations, guarantee adequate funds for our schools and take the politics out of education funding.

It's an investment in our future.

publicpower means a dedicated Education Excellence Fund to guarantee our schools have the accountable adequate source of funding our students need, every year.

Practical Solution 2: Closing loopholes and fair corporate taxes.

Howard Hampton and the NDP strongly believe in encouraging investment that leads to the creation of secure, good quality jobs. But Ontario doesn't need to tax corporate profits at a rate well below competing U.S. states to encourage investment. We would restore tax rates on corporate profits to levels that existed during the first term of the Conservative government. In the first year of the fair corporate tax this would raise \$1.2 billion to reinvest in the economic and social infrastructure and increased prosperity for everyone in Ontario. By the fourth year, it would raise \$2.95 billion.

The NDP would also close some tax loopholes that are clearly unfair. Currently, the Employer Health Tax exempts the first \$400,000 of payrolls for all corporations, from the biggest to the smallest. Exempting our largest and most profitable corporations from paying tax on their first \$400,000 in payroll simply makes no sense. We would restrict the exemption on the first \$400,000 of payroll to firms with \$2 million or less in payroll.

The Conservative government has wasted millions of dollars on pricey private sector consultants. The Provincial Auditor found many examples of unnecessary hiring of outside consultants, a lack of adequate competition that benefited the government's friends and poorly defined project definitions and monitoring to ensure the work was actually being done. Just like the scandalous behaviour of the Ottawa Liberals.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would bring back accountability and transparency to the performance of government work. Tasks that can and should be performed by public servants will be done by them, not by overpaid private friends of the government.

Finally, the NDP would get tough on outstanding fines and debts owed to you, the taxpayer. This includes over \$10 million in unpaid environmental fines.

publicpower means fair corporate tax rates and accountable government.

publicpower means a balanced budget.

Practical Solution 3: Implement a Jobs Strategy for all Ontarians, including an auto sector strategy, to maintain and grow jobs in Ontario.

The Conservatives talk about a strong economy, but for many workers in the automobile sector and other industries the lack of a comprehensive economic development strategy has meant fewer jobs, more layoffs and Ontario falling behind in cutting edge technologies.

“In the past 12 months there has been announcement after announcement of major assembly and parts operations closing in this province. Where have the Eves’ Conservatives and McGuinty’s Liberal cousins in Ottawa been on this issue for the past year? With the future of new facilities in Windsor and Oakville hanging in the balance, the time to act is now.”

– Howard Hampton,
NDP Leader

On December 20, 2002, the 50 workers at Magnetic Metals in Brantford went home for the Christmas holidays, then found out later the plant would not reopen and they had all lost their jobs. They are not alone. Three major auto assembly plants – Windsor’s Pillette Road. Daimler Chrysler facility, the Ford pick-up truck plant in Oakville and Chatham’s Navistar truck plant – are in immediate danger of closing. If governments don’t show some leadership and act now, one third of all auto assembly jobs in Ontario will be lost by 2004, according to predictions.

In a range of industries – auto, forest products, steel, telecommunications, aerospace, information technology – Ontario should be a leader in utilizing new technologies and seeking out new markets for our products and services. But the Conservative government has absolutely no economic development strategy to maintain and grow jobs in Ontario.

Howard Hampton and the NDP would make vital new investments in skills and research and development, as well as strategic infrastructure, tailored to specific sectors of the economy. The **NDP Practical Solution for Jobs** includes:

1. SECTOR INVESTMENT FUND – THE NDP “MADE IN ONTARIO” AUTO STRATEGY AND OTHER SECTOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Howard Hampton and the NDP would oversee and implement the sector-based jobs strategy through the Sector Investment Fund. For example, one in six jobs in Ontario ultimately depends on the auto sector. Both industry and labour agree Ontario must be at the table when new expansion options are considered. But the Sector-based jobs strategy goes even further. For the last year there has been announcement after announcement of major assembly and parts operations closing and moving to other jurisdictions, and the Ottawa Liberals and Ontario Conservatives haven’t even been in the game. The NDP would ensure the Ontario government aggressively returns to the auto investment attraction game and recruits new auto plant facilities to Ontario.

Other elements of the NDP **“Made in Ontario” Auto Strategy** include:

- immediately sit down with Daimler Chrysler, Ford, the union and the federal government to develop a plan to ensure that critically important new assembly facilities in Windsor (Daimler Chrysler) and Oakville (Ford) are established in Ontario.
- Upgrade Ontario’s transportation infrastructure to eliminate bottlenecks that significantly slow down auto shipments across the U.S. border. This would include a third crossing in Windsor, working in consultation with the community and municipal officials.
- Increase investments in skills training in both the parts and assembly segments.
- Provide support for knowledge-based auto jobs (e.g. research and development) that are becoming increasingly important as traditional assembly jobs decline.
- On a case-by-case basis, consider providing emergency financial assistance to key Canadian independent parts producers to ensure the Ontario auto parts sector is able to rebound from the current downturn.
- In the longer term, help auto parts firms upgrade their plants so they can turn out more sophisticated, value-added products, such as automotive electronics.

2. STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

The Strategic Infrastructure Fund would have three major components:

- A transportation infrastructure fund that would invest in roads, rail and other forms of transportation.
- An environmental infrastructure fund that would invest in projects to clean up our natural environment.
- A tourism and cultural infrastructure fund that would invest in tourism and cultural projects.

3. SUPPORTING SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESS

For decades the Ontario Development Fund was a key player in the financing of Ontario's up-and-coming small and medium sized businesses. That's why it was tragic when the Conservative government closed down the fund in 1995. **Howard Hampton and the NDP** believe in small business and would establish an improved Ontario Development Fund to provide innovative financing for small and medium sized business.

The NDP would also replace wasteful tax cuts for big corporations with smart tax policies that provide real incentives for investments that create good quality jobs and support small and medium sized business.

Community-based financial institutions such as credit unions can be an important source of financing for small business. The NDP would ensure that credit unions could participate in these projects on a level playing field.

Practical Solution 4: Implement a Northern Ontario Development strategy to bring and maintain good jobs and economic opportunities in Northern Ontario.

Howard Hampton and the NDP's Northern Ontario Development strategy includes:

- Keeping the Ontario Northland Transportation Corporation public and using it to further the economic development of Northern Ontario.
- Working with Northern Ontario's community colleges to provide entrepreneurial and community economic development training.
- Ensuring the maximum value for Northern communities from their resource base including developing more "value-added" jobs related to mining and forest products.
- Better incentives for Northern Ontario-based companies to invest in badly needed research and development.
- Co-ordinating strategic investment through a renewed Northern Ontario Development Corporation.

Your vote is your say.
publicpower.ca

