

A Plan for Care and Opportunity



Growing Ontario's Competitiveness and Creating Good Jobs

Ontario's economy is changing rapidly. As these changes widen the gaps within our society, the government has a plan to build a fairer, better Ontario by supporting everyone in the province with the opportunity they need to get ahead.



Good Jobs and Growth Plan

\$935 million in new funding over three years to support businesses, students and graduates, and help attract good, well-paying jobs.



Free Tuition

Making college and university tuition free for more than 225,000 students of all ages. Free or low tuition is available for students from low- and middle-income families.



Supporting Northern Businesses

Providing an additional \$85 million over the next three years to support job creation and innovation in the north.

How we're creating more opportunity for people

Ontario is:

- Making college and university tuition free for more than 225,000 students of all ages. Free or low tuition is available for students from low- and middle-income families; tuition is free for those earning up to \$90,000, and students from families who make up to \$175,000 are also eligible for financial aid.
- Preparing students for good jobs by providing \$132 million over three years to develop postsecondary education programs that respond to the changing needs of students and employers.
- Modernizing Ontario's apprenticeship program with an investment of \$170 million over three years to provide more trades-related learning opportunities for students.

- Providing more hands-on learning for students and recent grads through an additional \$12-million investment in the Career Ready Fund.
- Providing a long-awaited raise for 1.2 million people across Ontario by increasing the minimum wage to \$14 per hour on January 1, 2018, and \$15 per hour on January 1, 2019.
- Helping skilled newcomers find employment by investing an additional \$45.6 million over three years in the Ontario Bridge Training Program.

How we're improving business competitiveness

Ontario is:

- Helping companies stay competitive with a cut to the small business Corporate Income Tax rate of 22 per cent.
- Proposing to enhance research and development tax credits to encourage businesses to invest, spurring innovation in the Ontario economy.
- Making workplaces fairer for everyone by tackling the gender wage gap and increasing transparency in hiring processes with proposed legislation requiring all publicly posted jobs to include a pay rate or salary scale.
- Helping companies stay competitive and giving all regions an opportunity to attract significant private sector investments by providing an additional \$500 million over the next 10 years in the province's New Economy Fund.
- Standing up for Ontario workers and businesses by promoting international trade, growing Ontario's presence in key export markets, and seeking new economic and business partnerships around the world.
- Supporting regional economic development by investing an additional \$200 million over the next 10 years to create and retain approximately 38,000 jobs and attract more than \$1.6 billion in local investments.
- Continuing to invest \$120 million annually to reduce electricity costs for large industrial facilities in the north.
- Continuing to promote fairness, opportunity and inclusive growth by investing \$85 million over the next three years, increasing Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation funding to \$150 million in 2021 and introducing new programs.

How we're investing in infrastructure

Ontario is:

- Building modern and efficient infrastructure by investing approximately \$230 billion over 14 years, starting in 2014–15, for priority projects such as hospitals, schools, transit, bridges and roads.

- Continuing to improve transit across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) by implementing GO Regional Express Rail — a \$21.3-billion investment that is transforming the system to a regional rapid transit system. Weekly trips across the entire GO rail network will grow from about 1,500 to nearly 6,000 by 2025, with two-way, all-day and 15-minute service for commuters and families across the region.
- Increasing GO train service by more than 70 per cent, adding approximately 800 more train trips every week across the GO network since 2013.
- Investing in major rapid transit projects across the GTHA to provide fast, efficient and reliable transit, including: the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project with 25 stations, linking to 54 bus routes, three subway stations, three GO Transit lines and the UP Express; the Finch West LRT to connect Humber College to the new Finch West TTC subway station; and the Hurontario LRT to connect GO Transit and the Mississauga and Brampton transit systems, with service expected to begin in 2022.
- Reducing congestion and offering more travel options for commuters and families with a \$79-billion investment in public transit over the next 10 years — including supporting the Ottawa LRT, Waterloo ION rapid transit project and the London Bus Rapid Transit System.
- Implementing initiatives to support a transformational regional fare integration strategy for the GTHA, including introducing a fare discount for PRESTO card users who transfer between GO Transit or the UP Express and the TTC.
- Expanding broadband internet connectivity in rural and northern communities with an additional investment of \$500 million over three years.

