

# CLIMATE • JOBS • JUSTICE

## Green New Democratic Deal



CLIMATE • JOBS • JUSTICE  
Green New Democratic Deal



<b>A message from Andrea Horwath</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Challenge</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>An essential investment in our future</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Guaranteed jobs</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Bring Ontario to net-zero emissions</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Change how we move: Transform transportation</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Transition our electricity supply</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Protect our water + green spaces</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Cut down waste</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Protect people’s health</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Foster climate change resilience</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Indigenous self-governance across Ontario</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Resilience across Ontario</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>26</b>



## **A Future of Hope and Promise: A message from Andrea Horwath**

Dear friends,

The future can be full of promise and hope.

Imagine an Ontario that's prosperous and healthy, where folks don't struggle to put food on the table or pay the rent, and well-paying, secure jobs are available to all.

Where people can live, work and play freely, enjoying Ontario's beautiful lakes, forests and farmland knowing our province has done its part to tackle the climate crisis.

Where we travel on low-cost and low-emissions transportation, like rail that connects Ontarians in urban hubs to cities and towns across the province, and to communities in Northern Ontario. Where Ontario is a leader in producing electric vehicles and other key low-carbon technologies. Where the electricity we use is clean, reliable and affordable, and where every building meets top energy-efficiency standards.

Where parents can rest easy, knowing their kids will get the education and training they need to prepare for the changing workplace — without racking up crushing debt. Where we support Ontario elders and ensure no one is left behind.

Imagine if we built our environmental policies by respecting Indigenous knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge, combined with emerging science — which makes for better lands and resources decision making. Indigenous knowledge encompasses the broad spectrum of knowledge, practices and beliefs held by Indigenous communities in Ontario.

Imagine an Ontario that prioritizes the health and prosperity of everyday people over the profits of the super-rich.

The climate crisis is an unprecedented global challenge, yet it's also a unique opportunity to shift gears and revitalize our economy while addressing the overlapping crises of racial injustice and wealth inequality. We can and must make this vision a reality.

COVID-19 has caused devastating job losses for tens of thousands of Ontarians. The NDP believes that a just post-pandemic recovery must strengthen Ontario's public health while generating millions of new, well-paying sustainable jobs today and for generations to come.

We understand that rebuilding the economy after COVID-19 is an opportunity to fix longstanding societal inequities by creating stable jobs people can raise a family on. A chance to ensure economic opportunities and stable careers for those long

marginalized due to racism, sexism, classism and ableism, while ensuring our economy is resilient to future disasters.

COVID-19 has highlighted our society's many glaring inequities, as well as showing the toll a global crisis takes on our economy, health system and social service network. We've seen small business owners lose their livelihoods while big box stores rake in unprecedented profits; essential workers struggling to make rent because governments refuse to ensure they're paid a living wage. We've seen thousands of vulnerable seniors lose their lives while for-profit long-term care homes make massive profits. We've seen low-income and marginalized communities hit hardest by the virus.

We've also seen Ontarians band together to support their neighbours and families, and make enormous sacrifices to ensure that we'll see this through together. The climate crisis is the greatest threat our world faces, but I'm confident it can also be an opportunity to make the shift to a cleaner, more efficient and sustainable economy that builds equity and brings in the skills and ingenuity of Ontarians.

To achieve this, we'll need bold leadership and an ambitious but realistic plan.

That's why an NDP government is committed to delivering a Green New Democratic Deal (GNDD) for Ontario beginning in 2022, guaranteeing millions of well-paying jobs and protections for all Ontario workers, and bold emissions targets that align with the most ambitious of the Paris Agreement.

An NDP government will work with all Ontarians to bring our province to net-zero emissions and transition to cleaner forms of energy. We'll fight for the people of Ontario, not corporate lobbyists and the super-rich. We'll use technological innovation, strategic investments, well-crafted regulations, and the hard work and ingenuity of Ontarians to reduce emissions, create millions of jobs, and make life more affordable for everyday families and young people starting out.

As we work towards a thriving, just and sustainable future, our actions will be firmly rooted in our core values of equity, affordability, and reconciliation.

Together, we can build a cleaner, healthier and more equitable society in Ontario. One where no one is left behind, and where the health and prosperity of future generations is guaranteed.

Together, let's get it done.



Andrea Horwath  
Leader, Ontario's NDP

# The Challenge

Scientists have been clear: the scale and urgency of the climate crisis mean we must act now to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

A lot of Ontarians are worried about their future. They're concerned for their family's financial security; afraid their children and grandchildren won't have access to the clean air, drinking water and beautiful natural spaces of previous generations. Many young people fear the environmental, economic and social consequences of a climate crisis they didn't create, but will inherit.

Every single Ontarian deserves a prosperous, healthy future.

Ontario is already feeling the impacts of climate change. We're seeing more frequent and more extreme weather events — floods, wildfires, storms and droughts — that threaten peoples' lives, destroy infrastructure and hurt our economic stability. These impacts are disproportionately felt by rural communities, working class people, Indigenous Peoples, communities of colour, migrant communities and other marginalized groups.

The inaction of the previous Liberal government, and Doug Ford's shameless and destructive anti-environment agenda, have let Ontarians down, and have put our future in jeopardy.

Ontarians deserve a government that has their back, with bold ideas to transform the ways we build, move and get around, and the guarantee of good-paying jobs for all to ensure our vision becomes reality.

Young Ontarians need to know we will not abandon them, we will take on the climate crisis today.

## Our core values:

- 🔗 **EQUITY:** The transition to a net-zero economy must be equitable and just. Everyone deserves to share in the opportunity and prosperity it brings. Black, Indigenous, and people of colour have suffered the most and benefited the least from the conditions that have led to the climate crisis. An NDP Government will work to address the root causes of this inequity, including environmental racism. We will use an environmental justice lens for all programs and policies we deliver, ensuring that no community, industry or group is left behind. We will ensure those who have been excluded, including low-income Ontarians, working class people, women, and youth, Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, are reflected in our policies and priorities.

- **AFFORDABILITY:** We must make life more affordable for everyday people in Ontario. Taking action on the climate crisis will not come at the cost of an affordable life for families. Rather, taking action now will improve the quality of life for all Ontarians today and in the future.
- **RECONCILIATION:** We are committed to true and meaningful reconciliation. This will demand a lot more than symbolic gestures on behalf of governments. It will demand good faith, careful, concrete action and respect for treaties. As we transition to a net-zero economy, the NDP commits to ensuring our actions are informed by traditional Indigenous knowledge. We're committed to respecting our solemn treaty responsibilities and rooting our actions in true government-to-government relationships. We'll ensure our actions are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the recommendations from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

## Our Commitments

- Bring Ontario to net-zero emissions
- Change how we move: Transform transportation
- Change how we build: Retrofit program
- Guaranteed jobs
- Transition our electricity supply
- Protect our water + green spaces
- Cut down waste
- Protect peoples' health
- Foster climate change resilience



# An essential investment in our future

The NDP believes that a healthy and prosperous future for all Ontarians is worth the investment.

Simply put, the cost of inaction when it comes to the climate crisis will be far higher than the investments we must make now to secure a safer, more prosperous future. It is estimated that, if the global average temperature is allowed to rise to the levels we're currently on track to hit, the cost of the climate crisis in Ontario could grow from \$5 billion annually today to more than \$41 billion.

We must make essential investments now to avoid such an outcome. To fund the Green New Democratic Deal, an Ontario NDP government will re-direct spending, generate a mix of new revenue streams, fair carbon pricing and lending and borrowing. The jobs and investments central to our plan will generate dramatically increased economic activity with the resulting increase in GDP and tax revenues. Our fair carbon pricing system will see large corporate polluters on the hook to pay for their emissions. Low- and middle-income Ontarians will not be called upon to shoulder the cost of fighting the climate crisis.

We will look to our federal partners to do their part providing additional funding and support as together we take on one of the greatest challenges of our time. The cost of not taking action is staggering. It is estimated that the Green New Democratic Deal will create 100,000 jobs over eight years as part of the retrofit program alone, and as many as a million over the life of the plan. It will help Ontarians save as much as \$40 billion a year in costs associated with climate-generated disasters like floods and fires.

In the first term of an NDP government it is estimated that \$40 billion in new investments will be required to fund initiatives like improved transit, investments in retrofits and infrastructure, job training and placement and support for communities adversely affected by climate change. This is in addition to the estimated \$31 billion dollars already committed to some of these programs. Paying for these new investments will primarily come from two sources, carbon pricing and green bonds.

The federal government's carbon pricing backstop requires that provinces with their own pricing programs generate emission reductions equivalent to or greater than what the federal program would generate in that province. Our fair carbon pricing plan would exceed federal emissions reduction targets, and generate revenue approximately equivalent to what the federal program would generate in Ontario – an estimated \$30 billion between 2022 and 2026.

In addition to the \$30 billion dollars generated by the cap and trade program, and NDP government would raise another \$10 billion in the existing green bonds program between 2022 and 2026. This is slightly more than the \$2 billion a year the current government is already raising through this program.

The 40 billion dollars generated through these two sources would finance the approximately \$40 billion in new investments anticipated in the first term of an NDP government. While larger initial investments may be desirable, the pandemic economic recovery and reconstruction of our health, long-term care and home care systems necessitate a more measured start. As the economy recovers and new green revenue sources come on stream investments will ramp up over time.

## Reconciliation

We recognize that Indigenous Peoples have suffered disproportionately from the consequences of the climate crisis. Canada's North is warming at twice the speed of the rest of the country, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations continue to be deprived of access to traditional food sources. Many communities still lack access to potable water.

First and foremost, an NDP government will recognize and honour the fact that respecting Indigenous knowledge and sovereignty is critical to addressing climate change.

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and the recognition of inherent rights, title and treaty rights must be at the heart of our approach to addressing climate change. We are committed to true and meaningful reconciliation, which demands far more than symbolic gestures from governments. It demands good faith, and it demands action. As we transition to a net-zero economy, our actions must be informed by traditional Indigenous knowledge, as well as respecting our solemn treaty responsibilities, and be rooted in true government-to-government relationships.

Our actions must be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the recommendations from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

New Democrats recognize the unique knowledge and vital governance role that Indigenous nations and people play as the original peoples and stewards of their territories. We acknowledge that Indigenous communities are on the front lines dealing with the impacts of climate change every day, and that Indigenous Peoples are best placed to protect cultural and biological diversity through control over their territory.

In order for any climate plan to be successful, it must include Indigenous peoples as full partners from day one. Indigenous Peoples must have the opportunity to enter

into a true government-to-government relationship with Ontario, to contribute Indigenous knowledge to policy and program development and delivery, and to benefit equitably from investment and job creation.

Working with Indigenous nations and partners, we will ensure that those left behind by previous government policy will have access to the supports and opportunities they need to thrive as we move together towards a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous future.

## Guaranteed jobs

Industrial workers and skilled tradespeople are invaluable to Ontario's economy. Yet many in Ontario — particularly many young people — are struggling to find stable, well-paid work.

The climate crisis is both a massive existential threat and an opportunity to mobilize so that our transition to a net-zero economy creates over a million good jobs in Ontario, with salaries people can raise a family on.

Shifting to a cleaner economy will demand skilled tradespeople of all kinds, from arborists to electricians, pipe fitters to carpenters, solar panel installers to sheet metal workers. We'll need people to design the infrastructure of the future, develop new clean technologies, and drive the net-zero economy.

In addition to creating millions of good jobs, an NDP government will partner with labour and industry to ensure anyone who wants to learn a skilled trade gets the education, training and job placement they need.

We'll train up and support the next generation of workers, as well as workers at all stages of their career whose industries are being displaced by newer technology. We'll open community-run recruitment centres for the skilled trades, employing workers transitioning from legacy industries.

We'll make job training accessible province-wide by bringing job training opportunities to places Ontarians actually live, including to colleges and training institutes in Northern Ontario, and give support to community-run employment and training centres.

We'll work with universities, colleges and employers to fund and fast-track workers with industry experience, and provide tuition grants for programs geared toward expanding the net-zero economy.

Our plan will leave no one behind. We'll focus on recruiting and training people from marginalized communities, and those typically excluded from skilled trades, including women, racialized people, and Indigenous Peoples.

We will also establish Ontario's first Youth Climate Corps. Modeled after successful initiatives in other jurisdictions, Ontario's Youth Climate Corps will give young Ontarians the opportunity to get hands-on experience restoring and enhancing Ontario's natural landscape, while gaining knowledge, skills, a fair wage, and a fee credit towards post-secondary education.

## Green manufacturing

Ontario's manufacturing workers are vital to a robust economy. The sector is key to achieving a net-zero future in Ontario; a successful transition to net-zero emissions must adapt existing industries to deliver innovative products and provide workers with well-paid, unionized jobs.

An NDP government will ensure the sector thrives, with workers producing the goods we'll need, including batteries, solar panels, turbine components, lighting and insulation.

We'll work with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and other industry representatives to implement accelerated depreciation for certain plant and equipment upgrades. We'll invest a share of cap-and-trade revenue in programs and technology that help energy-intensive and trade-exposed industries compete and adapt to the products our new economy needs.

## Auto manufacturing

Ontario would not be where it is today without our auto sector.

For over 100 years, auto and auto-part manufacturing have been the bedrock of our economy. Generations of hardworking Ontarians have been at the heart of this pivotal industry, raising families and building robust communities on the good, stable jobs it supplied. To this day, auto manufacturing remains Canada's largest export.

The sector's decline in recent years, and the attendant shift cancellations and job losses, have proven devastating for communities across the province, chiefly in southwestern Ontario. Governments have turned their backs on the sector and the many workers relying on it.

The Ontario NDP has a vision to restore the auto manufacturing sector and bring back tens of thousands of good jobs, ensuring that auto assembly and parts manufacturing workers can once again thrive in Ontario.

Our plan will achieve our ambitious emissions targets and guarantee Ontario's economy is well positioned to succeed in the net-zero economy of the future. To do so, an NDP government will implement Ontario's first ever Comprehensive Zero-Emissions Vehicles Strategy (ZEV Strategy), supporting the auto sector as it

transitions from manufacturing primarily internal combustion engine-powered cars to ZEVs. In close collaboration with auto workers and other stakeholders, we will put in place policies that ensure Ontario's highly-skilled and experienced auto workers are put back to work, with jobs that are stable and unionized.

Our ZEV Strategy will increase our uptake of ZEVs and manufacture those vehicles and parts right here in Ontario. We'll take every step possible to ensure auto assembly and parts manufacturing jobs thrive in Ontario, and that no worker or community is left behind.

## Change how we build: Well-paying, secure jobs

Buildings are the second largest contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Ontario.

By retrofitting buildings to improve their energy efficiency, we can reduce emissions and create significant cost savings for Ontarians. It is estimated that every \$1 invested in energy conservation generates \$4 in economic activity.

By investing in retrofits, between 2022 and 2030 Ontario could see more than \$15.2 billion added to our annual GDP, which should create about 100,000 good jobs.

The Ontario NDP will implement an ambitious building retrofit program. With the goal of retrofitting at least five per cent of Ontario buildings per year, we'll retrofit existing buildings to be more energy efficient and ensure new buildings meet international energy efficiency standards.

By 2030, we commit to mandating that all newly built public, residential and commercial buildings conform to net-zero emissions.

### **Our program will reduce emissions from buildings through three distinct channels:**

1. **PUBLIC BUILDINGS:** The NDP believes governments must lead by example and dramatically lower emissions from public buildings including offices, hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, cultural facilities and community centres. An Ontario NDP government will work rapidly to reduce emissions from broader public sector buildings to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030. Improving the energy efficiency of public sector buildings will save taxpayers at least \$112 million a year and reduce emissions by 250,000 tonnes annually while creating thousands of good jobs.
2. **BUILDING CODE:** While we retrofit existing buildings to be more energy efficient, we must also ensure that all new buildings are constructed to be as energy efficient as possible. By 2030, New Democrats commit to ensuring that all newly built broader public sector, residential and commercial buildings are built according to the highest standards of energy efficiency, operating at net-zero emissions.

3. **PRIVATE BUILDINGS:** By 2030, an NDP government will reduce emissions for residential and ICI (Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional) buildings by 50 per cent. These changes will save the average residential ratepayer hundreds of dollars per year in reduced utility bills. By 2050, all ICI buildings in Ontario will be retrofitted to operate at net-zero emissions.

We will conduct a comprehensive inventory of energy conservation measures to identify the most efficient retrofit opportunities and investigate the viability of rapid deployment of deep retrofits for broader public sector buildings, social housing and certain high-rise buildings.

We'll establish a 'single-window' entity for energy efficiency and conservation planning, program promotion and delivery and upfront financing.

We will immediately implement a large-scale job-training program to ensure we have the skilled tradespeople and professionals needed to achieve our retrofit targets, simultaneously creating thousands of well-paying jobs. These programs will actively recruit and support communities and peoples underrepresented in the trades, such as women and Black, Indigenous and people of colour.

## Cleantech

Ontario's skilled workforce and many post-secondary schools and regional research hubs make us well-positioned to be a national leader in clean technology (cleantech).

Liberal and Conservative governments have squandered this opportunity; currently, cleantech represents a mere three per cent of Ontario's GDP and 138,460 jobs.

An NDP government will ramp up investment and support for cleantech. We'll partner with the Ontario Clean Technology Industry Association (OCTIA), universities, colleges, municipalities, First Nations, and private companies making innovative products, whether in health care, renewable energy, waste, technology, transportation, or other cleantech sectors.

We'll study the implementation of rapid depreciation for cleantech, encouraging investment in this sector.

We'll create Ontario's first Cleantech Bank, funded by the proceeds of cap-and-trade, to support, export and adopt products, services, and ideas that will lower our emissions, increase equity, and generate job and GDP growth in Ontario. Ontario's Cleantech Bank will be advised by a nonpartisan board of directors — experts in the cleantech field who will ensure investment is transparent and forward-thinking.

## Supporting a caring economy

COVID-19 has highlighted the essential work of those in the caring economy — health care workers, personal support workers (PSWs) and child care workers are vital to caring for our vulnerable loved ones, protecting public health and keeping the economy moving.

Workers in the caring economy are predominantly women, racialized people, and people of colour. The Liberals underfunded health care and long-term care for decades. The Ford government has failed these workers during the pandemic, refusing calls from experts and the NDP to hire thousands more PSWs in long-term care, make their jobs full-time and give them a permanent raise so they earn a liveable wage.

An NDP government will immediately recruit, train and hire 10,000 PSWs, make their jobs full-time with benefits and give them a living wage. We will take the profits out of long-term care, so peoples' lives are prioritized over corporations' bottom lines.

We will address the nursing shortage in Ontario and the need for more early learning educators and better pay in the child care sector.

## Bring Ontario to net-zero emissions

Ontarians are already feeling the effects of the climate crisis. We have seen a rise in extreme weather events like floods, record-breaking storms, droughts and heat waves. Local species are at risk, as is Ontario's freshwater supply, which relies on cooler temperatures and natural buffers like wetlands and woodlands.

People are seeing unprecedented damage to their properties. Insured damage to property and infrastructure in Canada has risen by a whopping 750 per cent in the last several decades.

Scientists are clear that if we don't limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius, we'll experience the consequences of catastrophic climate change. To avoid this, we must dramatically reduce global GHG emissions within 10 years, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

An NDP government will set ambitious and achievable GHG emission reduction targets that align with both science and Indigenous knowledge.

The Liberals' cap-and-trade system favoured corporations while placing an unfair burden on low-income, rural and Northern families. The Doug Ford Conservatives have violated environmental protections and bypassed public and municipal consultations, allowing their wealthy developer friends to pave over valuable natural spaces.

Both the Liberals and Conservatives have let Canada's wealth gap grow at an unfettered pace, with many permitted to get rich by exploiting the environment.

An Ontario NDP government will hold large polluters to account and get Ontario to net-zero emissions, while making sure regular Ontarians aren't unfairly targeted by the shift to cleaner forms of energy.

Achieving net-zero GHG emissions means removing as much carbon and other GHGs from the atmosphere as we release. In a net-zero scenario, emissions from sources like steel and concrete production are offset by actions that remove or capture carbon or other GHGs from the atmosphere. These actions include planting trees, restoring wetlands, and implementing certain farming practices.

## **To achieve net-zero emissions, an Ontario New Democrat government will:**

Reduce Ontario's GHG emissions by at least 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, targets consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the most ambitious aspects of the Paris Agreement.

Enshrine our GHG reduction targets, and interim targets, into law. We'll use a carbon budgeting process to ensure we reach our 2030 and 2050 targets, consulting with climate scientists, workers, industry and other experts.

Restore the powers of the Environment Commissioner of Ontario, and give them the power to conduct annual, independent audits of Ontario's progress with respect to our climate goals.

Invest in low-carbon transportation solutions to reduce emissions and ease congestion.

Make large polluters pay for their emissions, with proceeds funding policies and programs that help Ontario get to net-zero, while ensuring hard-working Ontarians in rural areas and in the trades and industrial sectors are not unfairly penalized.

In full consultation with industry, municipalities, First Nations, and communities across the province, an NDP government will develop a new, equitable, cap-and-trade system to replace the federal carbon backstop in Ontario.

## Cap and trade

Unlike other carbon pricing systems, cap and trade ensures that hard emission reduction targets are set and met.

The Ontario NDP believes polluters should pay for the emissions they produce; carbon pricing is an important tool to help lower GHG emissions by making sure polluters are held accountable.

Our cap and trade system will ensure there is a level playing field for Ontario's domestic industries. We will limit free allowances to energy-intensive and trade-exposed industries to get maximum emission reductions without harming Ontario's exporters.

We will permit cap-and-trade participants to purchase a limited amount of carbon offsets for credible offset projects within Ontario only.

Our plan will see at least 25 per cent of cap-and-trade revenue dedicated to supporting low-income, rural and Northern Ontario families and to helping industries that have been disproportionately impacted by carbon pricing, such as trade-exposed industries, to adapt.

We will be fully transparent in tracking and reporting all spending from cap-and-trade revenues, emission reductions from cap-and-trade participants, and emission reductions due to initiatives funded by cap-and-trade revenues.

We will restore the full and independent powers of the Environmental Commissioner, and empower them with clear oversight powers over the cap-and-trade program and its revenues, to keep us on track in our goal to achieve our emission reduction targets.

New Democrats recognize that carbon pricing alone will not be enough to meet our emission reduction targets or achieve our goal of building a more equitable economy. Carbon pricing must be accompanied by additional actions to reduce emissions, improve our natural environment, and support a just transition to a net-zero economy.

We also recognize that Ontarians living in remote, rural and northern communities, and those working in industrial economies have been disproportionately impacted by carbon pricing, and must be given the financial support to thrive.



## Change how we move: Transform transportation

Across the province, Ontarians face worse congestion, longer commutes and shoddy inter-regional transit systems that can be a barrier to movement and economic opportunity.

Emissions from transportation have seen unparalleled growth in Ontario. Both the Liberals and Conservatives have failed to capitalize on new opportunities for Ontario's hardworking auto sector, investing too little too late in the green vehicles of the future. They've chronically underinvested in efficient infrastructure, reliable public transit and intercity transit.

An NDP government recognizes the incredible contributions of our autoworkers and we're committed to supporting them in skills development and in securing employment as we adapt to a greener industry.

We understand the need for efficient and better connected public transit and intercity transit options, and we'll make the necessary investments to support Ontarians and Ontario municipalities.

### Build better public transit

For too many Ontarians, public transit isn't available when or where they need it, and service is unreliable.

The previous Conservative government cut provincial funding for municipal public transit and paratransit systems, and Liberals refused to reinstate it.

An NDP government will build better public transit infrastructure across the province. We'll support affordable and efficient transit operations people actually want to use.

We'll partner with municipalities to reform Metrolinx's governance structure so transit planning is transparent, with its services coordinated and investment driven by evidence, and public funding going towards the projects most in the public's long-term interest — not to lobbyists or private developers.

We will prioritize immediate service improvements to the GO regional rail network by delivering two-way, all-day GO service between Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto, and expanding year-round, daily service to Bowmanville, Grimsby and Niagara.

We'll take immediate steps to electrify the GO Train network on an accelerated timeline to replace dirty diesel trains along all lines.

We'll restore provincial funding for municipal public transit and paratransit systems. We'll fund municipal transit systems to 50 per cent of their net operating costs and enable immediate service improvements, more transit routes, and increased ridership.

We will work with municipal transit systems to make fares more affordable, and explore reduced fares for students, seniors and low-income people. We'll work with our municipal partners to achieve fair and seamless fare integration between transit systems and transit technologies.

We'll work with municipalities to electrify all municipal transit fleets by 2040.

We'll establish a grant program to help municipalities buy electric transit vehicles.

We will continue to support existing municipal transit expansion plans.

We will make it a priority to get moving on long-awaited transit projects.

We will work with municipalities to deliver transit services to those without.

## **Increase intercity transit**

Affordable and convenient intercity transportation options are essential for lowering transportation emissions and improving quality of life in small, rural and Northern communities.

An NDP government will implement a Northern Rail Strategy that will include restoration of Ontario Northlander's passenger rail service and support for the Huron Central and Algoma Central Rail Lines.

Working with municipal and industry partners, we'll explore improvements to intercity transportation in the Northwest to fill the void created by Greyhound's departure.

We'll develop a Southwest Intercity Transportation Strategy to better connect communities in Central and Southern Ontario.

## **Support the transition to zero-emission vehicles**

Transitioning to a net-zero economy requires shifting from internal combustion engine vehicles to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs).

Doug Ford cut the Electric and Hydrogen Vehicle Incentive Program sales, causing ZEV sales in Ontario to plummet by more than 50 per cent.

An NDP government will implement a comprehensive ZEV strategy, which will include:

- Setting a province-wide ZEV sales target of 15% by 2025, 45% by 2030, and 100% by 2035
- Offering strong incentives to Ontarians who purchase ZEVs, excluding luxury vehicles, with a particular focus on those made in Canada.

- Promoting government procurement of made-in-Canada ZEVs with a goal of completely electrifying government fleets by 2030
- Supporting and emboldening innovation by exploring the potential of procurement and diversifying the supply chain across ministries
- Investing in province-wide charging infrastructure
- Offering accelerated depreciation of investments in ZEVs for commercial and industrial consumers
- Investigating financial incentives for Ontario plants to re-tool in order to produce ZEVs
- Giving \$600 for households to install EV charging stations at home, and requiring new homes to have vehicle charging capacity
- Building charging stations on suitable broader public sector properties, including replacing the ones at GO Train stations that were ripped up by the Doug Ford government. We'll work with municipalities and interested private sector partners to build charging stations at workplaces and along roadways in every region of the province.

## Support active transportation

Within our first term in office, an NDP government will require municipalities to have active transportation plans that incorporate the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and vulnerable road users.

We'll establish a grant program for municipalities to fund projects within these plans.

All new residential and non-residential developments will be required to incorporate active transportation into their planning. New multiple-unit dwellings will be required to provide secure bicycle storage as will all new ICI development in urban areas.

## Transition our electricity supply

Getting Ontario to net-zero emissions means we must transition from reliance on fossil fuels to low-carbon electrification.

Doug Ford cancelled renewable energy projects and energy conservation initiatives. Emissions are rising under his mandate, and, as projected by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), they're expected to get even worse.

Ontarians faced punishing hydro bills first under the Liberals, who privatized Hydro One, and now under Doug Ford, who blew his promise of 12 per cent hydro relief, and whose promise to rewrite hydro contracts will result in negligible savings for Ontarians. (The IESO released a report that shows Ford's cornerstone campaign promise to rewrite hydro contracts will only result in a 0.17-per-cent reduction.)

Delaying the transition from fossil fuel-based transportation and heating to low-carbon transit and heating will cost Ontarians a great deal. The Ecofiscal Commission warns of significant costs associated with delayed policy action. It cites an OECD study that estimates that “for every \$1 of clean energy investment not made in the electricity sector before 2020, expenditures of \$4.3 would be required between 2021 and 2035 to make up for increased emissions.”

An NDP government will commit to urgently bringing emissions from electricity to 2017 levels, and achieving zero emissions by 2030.

We'll explore all options to ensure electricity is affordable, including expanding our hydro capacity, increasing intermittent renewables including wind and solar power, creating more grid scale storage, rooftop solar capacity on buildings, and major grid interconnection with Quebec and Manitoba to enable electricity imports.

The Ontario NDP recognizes that conservation is the least expensive electricity resource. We will adopt a conservation-first approach to electricity planning

We won't expand Ontario's nuclear capacity unless cost and waste storage issues are resolved.

Ontario currently subsidizes fossil fuels by some \$700 million a year, and spends \$16 to \$24 billion every year to import fossil fuels. We'll re-evaluate existing subsidies and imports of fossil fuels, including fracked natural gas. We will seek all reasonable pathways to decrease fossil fuel imports and redirect those funds to non-emitting energy sources. This includes increasing electricity capacity, increasing the production of renewable natural gas and producing second-generation biofuels, including cellulosic ethanol and synthetic diesel from biomass gasification.

While some of these sources are from dedicated crops (corn, wheat, and canola production), it is of special note that much of the potential for the production of biomass gasification is from other sources, including municipal food waste and residues from the industrial, agriculture and forestry sectors. We will work with those partners, including the agricultural sector, to support a transition to lower-emitting fuels and ensure that jobs and economic well-being aren't at risk.

## Protect our water + green spaces

Ontarians are proud of our province's vast forests, pristine farmland and abundant freshwater. But these resources are increasingly at risk. In the last 100 years, the province has lost 73 per cent of its natural habitats, including forests, fields, wetlands and marshes. Many species are at risk. Some, like polar bears, face extinction in Ontario.

Doug Ford's anti-environment agenda has increased the risk to endangered species and their habitats. He has made multiple attempts to pave over the Greenbelt. He cut the authority of Conservation Authorities. Under the cover of the COVID-19 pandemic, his government passed legislation to allow itself to override environmental protections and public input on development.

In Ontario, 30 per cent of First Nations communities have drinking water advisories. Multiple First Nation communities have lived under boil water advisories for decades.

Liberal and Conservative governments have failed in their responsibility to deliver access to clean drinking water to Indigenous communities.

Past governments have renewed the water-taking permits of large water bottling corporations like Nestle, allowing companies to extract local well water in the face of conditions like drought, and of detriment to the Ontarians that live there.

The NDP views water as a basic human right, a public trust. We will never put the interest of companies over the needs of Ontarians. We will ensure everyone in Ontario has access to clean drinking water, clean water for sanitation and growing food, and that access is sustainable.

We'll work with farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and rural Ontarians to protect and restore our natural spaces.

We'll preserve Ontario's natural resources and beauty, respect and mobilize traditional land knowledge, and remove and sequester GHGs – lowering their concentration in the atmosphere.

These actions will generate economic opportunity for Northern and rural Ontarians. This includes Indigenous Peoples and others who stand to lose the most, and have benefited the least, from conditions that have led to the climate crisis.



## A New Democrat Government will:

- Increase protection of Ontario parks and expand access to green spaces and parks across Ontario, while protecting ecosystems and biodiversity
- Work collaboratively with Conservation Authorities, insurance companies and municipal governments on flooding-oriented land-use planning
- Rehabilitate our wetlands, forests and vegetation through our Youth Climate Corps
- Develop a Provincial Food Strategy to promote access to healthy food and strengthen the resilience of Ontario's food systems
- Develop a Provincial Water Strategy based on the principle that decisions about water must be based on the public interest, and guarantee public access to sustainable water sources.

## Our Provincial Water Strategy will:

- Ensure Source Water Protection Plans are implemented so every Ontarian has access to reliable, safe drinking water, and we can end water advisories
- Clean up the mercury in the English-Wabigoon River system and ensure funding for a dedicated mercury treatment centre so people can get the care they need after decades of mercury poisoning
- Launch a transparent and public review of the Permit-To-Take-Water process, especially bottled water, to ensure permitting provides for long-term stability, public use, and good watershed management
- Create an inventory of water, including measurement of use and return
- Ensure that communities have the water needed for planned growth
- Ensure Long-Term Water Use Planning based on current and future needs, and ensuring water use is sustainable.
- Collaborate with Indigenous Peoples to ensure traditional territories and foods are well-managed and protected
- Work with members of Ontario's farming community to maximize their potential as land stewards, providing food for Ontarians and sequestering carbon
- Expand the Greenbelt and work with farmers and municipal leaders to protect Ontario's farmland from encroachment by land speculators

## Cut down waste

Ontarians are conscientious about diverting their household waste from the landfill.

But industries in our province continue to produce large amounts of waste each year, an amount that is going up. This waste — which accounts for four per cent of Ontario's total emissions — fills our landfills, puts strain on recycling and compost systems, and pollutes our streets, waterways and ecosystems.

This waste accounts for four per cent of Ontario's total emissions, and is going up. We must divert more of it from our landfills to cut down on emissions from waste, especially methane.

An Ontario NDP government will ensure large-scale industrial producers take responsibility for the waste they produce. We'll pass a law banning all single-use plastics for non-medical uses by 2024.

Working closely with municipalities, industry and Stewardship Ontario, we'll establish a producer-responsibility model of waste diversion. Together, we'll improve waste diversion from multi-residential buildings, workplaces and public spaces.

We'll work with municipalities to achieve greater, cross-municipality standards for services and recyclable materials. We'll expand the number of municipalities that deliver recycling and composting services, and work with industry to promote an economy of repairable goods.

We'll immediately launch a public educational campaign on reducing consumption, recycling and composting.

An NDP government will lead by example and develop a robust and comprehensive waste diversion strategy for the public sector, in consultation with broader public sector stakeholders, with the goal of making Ontario waste free.

## Protect people's health

COVID-19 has shown us the tremendous impacts a health crisis has on Ontario's economy, health care system and the mental and physical well-being of all of us, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Unfortunately, the climate crisis has consequences for our health. Without intervention, the impacts of climate change will pose further risks to the mental and physical health of Ontarians, the stability of our economy and the functioning of our health care system.



Air pollutants cause respiratory and cardiovascular ailments, heart and lung disease, and premature death. Rising temperatures will cause more heat waves across the province, with associated hospitalizations and deaths. Children and seniors are especially at risk.

The climate crisis is projected to accelerate the spread of vector-borne diseases including Lyme disease.

The climate crisis has already impacted the mental health of many Ontarians, especially young Ontarians. It's clear we must continue to study and deal with solutions for climate anxiety head-on.

By 2050, the health effects of climate change may cost the average person in Toronto an extra \$600 per year.

We must reduce our reliance on fossil fuels to improve local air quality and public health.

In consultation with stakeholders, we'll support accessible and culturally relevant public health campaigns to ensure all Ontarians have accurate, up-to-date information about the climate crisis and health risks associated with air and water pollution.

## **Foster climate change resilience**

The earth's climate has already warmed by over one degree Celsius.

Liberal and Conservative governments have refused to acknowledge or address the crisis Ontario's lands, species and economy are facing.

An Ontario NDP government will take immediate action to avert the worst consequences of the climate crisis. Through careful planning and investment, we'll foster climate resilience to protect natural habitats and strengthen the economy province-wide.

Taking adaptive measures will pay dividends for all Ontarians. Canada's National Roundtable on Environment and the Economy notes that enhancing forest fire prevention, controlling pests, and planting climate-resilient tree species provide up to \$38 in benefits for every \$1 invested.

These actions will not only benefit the natural landscape, but provide economic opportunity for Northern and rural Ontarians, including Indigenous Peoples and others who stand to lose the most, and have benefited the least, from the conditions that have led to the climate crisis.

We'll ensure that measures to foster climate resilience provide economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, Northern and rural Ontarians.

## Flooding

In recent years, residents living along Lake Ontario, the Ottawa River and the Muskoka River have seen terrible damage to their homes and businesses due to heavy rains and increased flooding. At the same time Doug Ford slashed funding to flood management programs in half.

Flooding is the most frequent and costly natural hazard in Canada, and climate change is making it worse.

An Ontario NDP government will work with stakeholders like the Insurance Bureau of Canada to implement a Provincial Action Plan on Flooding, which will include measures to:

- Provide support for people moving off of floodplains, with compensation for those affected
- Educate Ontarians about flood risk, including mandating risk disclosure in real estate listings
- Invest in flood defences
- Provide all Ontarians with access to affordable insurance
- End building on floodplains

We will restore funding and power to Conservation Authorities, understanding that they play a vital role in flood management and prevention.

## Forests

Trees and vegetation remove GHGs from the atmosphere while providing habitats for wildlife, soil protection and a sanctuary for human beings.

Planting trees is one of the most cost-effective ways to sequester carbon. A UN study identified Canada as having the third-highest potential for tree planting worldwide. Ontario's vast land and relatively low forest cover make it well-positioned to spearhead large tree-planting initiatives.

Doug Ford cancelled a program to plant 50 million trees in Ontario.

A New Democrat government would make historic investments in afforestation, with a goal of planting one billion trees by 2030. This project alone could remove and sequester a significant amount of carbon, helping Ontario achieve our net-zero targets.

To achieve this goal, we will partner with non-profits, Indigenous Peoples, landowners, private businesses, and other levels of government.

## Fires

Ontario is recognized worldwide for its expertise in wildland fire management. Ontario fire rangers, many of whom are Indigenous Peoples, not only fight fires within our provincial borders, but offer support to other provinces and territories.

Wildfires are a dangerous consequence of climate change. In 2019, wildfires burned more than 269,000 hectares of land in Ontario. As the climate crisis worsens, this figure will increase, causing harm to land and the atmosphere.

Without proper forest management and fire prevention and fighting expertise, we risk jeopardizing the progress and livelihoods of Northern and rural Ontarians.

Well-managed forests lead to fewer forest fires. An NDP government will invest in forest management programs including expanding Indigenous-managed lands.

An NDP government will support our hardworking fire rangers, ensuring that the right resources are in place to keep our province safe. We'll invest in developing training programs for other jurisdictions, so that the world can benefit from Ontario's expertise while creating economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and people in the North.

## Indigenous self-governance across Ontario

Adapting to climate change requires ongoing monitoring, management, and support for both natural and urban infrastructure.

New Democrats recognize that a fundamental part of meeting our shared goals is to ensure that we move forward in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and with respect for Indigenous sovereignty. Inspired by the Federal Indigenous Guardians Program, and in the spirit of reconciliation, we would invest in Indigenous-managed protected areas, and ensure that traditional knowledge is incorporated into all decisions regarding restoring and preserving our shared natural landscape.

## Resilience across Ontario

Building climate resilience must not be limited to rural areas.

Aging infrastructure in Ontario's urban areas leave people and property vulnerable to extreme weather events caused by climate change.

We'll work with municipalities, ensuring local governments have a say in investing infrastructure dollars. We'll fund 50 per cent of transit projects, and restore funding to the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund.

We'll recognize that Broadband is an essential service, invest in expanding broadband province-wide, and set a 2030 deadline for making affordable high-speed internet available to everyone.

We will work to protect and expand the Greenbelt.

New Democrats will ensure that any and all increased tree harvesting is sustainable.

We will implement a Climate Stress Test on all existing and planned provincial infrastructure. We'll make historic investments in repair and replacement to clear the infrastructure deficit in Ontario and ensure the safety of our buildings, bridges, and power systems.

We'll use provincial purchasing policies to drive climate action by suppliers. We'll evaluate the cost of foods and services provided as well as their contribution to cutting emissions.

# Conclusion

Ontarians have experienced unprecedented challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and shown tremendous resilience in the face of immense threats to our health and economy.

The devastation of COVID-19 and the unparalleled threat of the climate crisis has created the need for significant changes to how we live, move and build. We must band together to seize this moment and use it to shift to a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable economy while combating longstanding racism and inequity.

The future can be hopeful.

We must take the critically necessary action to secure an Ontario that's prosperous, sustainable and equitable, with well-paying, secure jobs available to all, levelling the playing field and leaving no one behind.

An Ontario NDP government will harness the incredible innovativeness and drive of all Ontarians, and together we will build a future that is far more healthy, clean and equitable, with prosperity guaranteed for generations to come.