

KEY MUNICIPAL POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2014 PROVINCIAL ELECTION

Part One of the document outlines Party platforms against AMO's Six Good Ideas

Part Two outlines Party platform positions that also impact municipal governments that fall outside the Good Ideas

Current as of June 03, 2014

PART ONE: MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES	LIBERAL PARTY Source: Kathleen's Wynne's Plan for Ontario and 2014 Provincial Budget is Platform and Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014	PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY Source: Million Jobs Plan is Platform* and PC Senior Staff Meeting on May 21, 2014 *Items contained in the Platform form its immediate priorities for implementation. Responses to other items have been summarized by AMO and approved by PC Campaign staff.	NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY Source: Andrea Horwath's Plan That Makes Sense is Platform and Letter to AMO May 28, 2014	AMO POSITION
GOOD IDEA: ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL				
Continue to upload the Province's social service and court security costs	Will continue to implement the upload as per the Agreement. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.	Will continue to honour the 2008 Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review Upload Agreement, completing the upload of social service and some court security costs by 2018. Source: MPP McDonnell; PC staff.	Will maintain the agreed upload schedule. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.	Link: Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review – Upload Agreement Provincial social and other programs and services should not be on property tax base.
Provide funding for municipal infrastructure	Will provide \$25 million to municipalities to create up to 400 new kilometres of bike lanes over three years, 135 kilometres of paved	Would immediately increase provincial gas tax fund by \$75 million to be distributed to municipalities not	\$20 million over 4 years to help communities create bike networks and make roads safer for everyone.	Link: Ontario's Municipal Infrastructure Municipal infrastructure represents a majority of Ontario's public sector

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	<p>shoulders on provincial roads and highways over the next three years.</p> <p>Invest \$100 million to support critical municipal priorities in 2014-15 and expect the fund to grow over time; will discuss with AMO how to transition to 100 per cent formula-based. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.</p>	<p>currently receiving provincial gas tax funding to support roads, bridges and other infrastructure.</p> <p>Municipalities currently receiving provincial gas tax for transit will not see it reduced. Source: PC staff.</p> <p>To see Ontario and other public pension plans invest in government-owned businesses like the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation; to raise funding needed to improve and expand subways and highways.</p>	<p>Proceed with the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund for critical road, bridge, water and wastewater projects and for projects identified as priorities in municipal asset management plans. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.</p>	<p>inventory and much of it is nearing end of its lifecycle and new infrastructure needed for growing parts of Ontario.</p>
Provide funding support for transit	\$28.9 billion for transit over 10 years, including \$15 billion for the GTHA and \$13.9 billion for communities outside the GTHA.	Would immediately prioritize transit infrastructure spending in the existing provincial capital budget, and create an Ontario Transportation	Create a dedicated fund of \$29 billion over 10 years for transit and transportation projects across the province, and begin flowing funds	Link: Municipal Transit in Ontario Transit investment is important to quality of life and GDP.

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	<p>Funding will come from dedicated revenue sources: \$14.54 billion from dedicated gas tax and HST on gas tax; \$1.49 billion from new revenues; \$3.15 billion from asset optimization; \$2.55 billion from Federal Building Canada Plan; and \$7.17 from provincial borrowing.</p> <p>Will work with municipalities on how best to prioritize transportation and transit investments through the use of rigorous business case analysis and have an evidence-based process to decide which projects receive funding (through the \$28.9 billion funds) and committed to expansion of major highways, municipal LRT, GO Transit and SW Ontario</p>	<p>Trust to fund transit province-wide, with GTA transit projects to address gridlock being a priority.</p> <p>After budget is balanced, up to \$2 billion per year would be directed to the Ontario Transportation Trust and would include a portion of revenues from a growing economy, asset sales and greater commercialization above transit stations.</p> <p>Rail-based transit and major highways in the GTA would be uploaded to a single provincial agency and GO service would be expanded throughout the region.</p> <p>Source: Million Jobs Plan, PC Transit Backgrounder, PC Staff</p>	<p>immediately. Prioritize high impact transit projects including the Downtown Relief Line, Clean Trains Now, Scarborough Transit and all day two-way Go Train service to Kitchener-Waterloo and Niagara Falls.</p> <p>Reinstate the Ontario Bus Replacement Program. This will provide support for up to 127 municipalities for the purchase of new and replacement buses.</p>	

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	<p>rail service; refurbishment of Ontario Northland (ONTC) infrastructure and \$1 billion for Ring of Fire development. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.</p> <p>Introduce legislation to remove the 10 per cent discount on transit development charges and work with municipalities to determine a progressive, forward-looking formula for calculating transit development charges. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.</p>			
Respect local planning decisions and reduce related costs	<p>Ensure citizens are consulted sooner and that there is more citizen input into the land use planning process.</p> <p>Require municipalities to work with school boards to</p>	<p>Restore local control over wind and solar energy projects. Source: Million Jobs Plan</p>		<p>Link: Land Use Planning – Foundation for Prosperity</p>

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	develop Park Plans to protect green space in growing communities.			
Reduce energy costs	Committed to the Long Term Energy Plan including consultation on regional energy planning; investing in energy infrastructure; Conservation First; would continue the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Plan, Ontario Energy & Property Tax Credit, Northern Ontario Energy Credit, the Conservation and Demand Framework , the Industrial Conservation Initiative, the Industrial Electricity Incentive, the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program; would end the Debt Retirement Charge; create a new Home Electricity Assistance Program; and provide up to \$200 million over two	Would create an Affordable Energy Act to prescribe a new set of rules for renewable energy industry and to treat electricity as a job creation tool for the entire economy while keeping power rates under control for consumers. Source: PC Staff, Million Jobs Plan	Remove the HST from hydro bills. Reduce hydro costs by merging four of Ontario's hydro agencies, capping hydro CEO salaries and getting a better price for electricity exports through direct trading.	Link: Energy Policy – Powering Prosperity

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	years for a new Natural Gas Access Loan. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.			
Improve coordination of economic development initiatives	<p>Plan to invest over \$130 billion in public infrastructure over the next 10 years.</p> <p>Up to \$200 million over 2 years for a new interest-free Natural Gas Access Loan.</p> <p>Establish a \$30 million Natural Gas Economic Development Grant to accelerate projects with a clear economic development potential.</p> <p>Up to \$1 billion towards infrastructure development for the Ring of Fire.</p> <p>Move forward with a</p>	<p>Repeal the <i>Far North Act</i> to encourage job creation in the North and the development of the Ring of Fire.</p> <p>Create jobs and growth in northern and rural Ontario.</p> <p>Pursue free trade deals with other provinces and work with federal government on new international trade agreements. Source: Million Jobs Plan</p>	<p>Establish a Job Creation Tax credit that will pay 10% of the salary of new employees to a maximum value of \$5000 per job.</p> <p>Establish a 2 year, \$500M Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit reward companies that invest in buildings, machinery, and equipment in Ontario.</p> <p>Reduce the Small Business Tax Rate from 4.5% to 3% by 2016.</p> <p>Create jobs by investing in the Ring of fire infrastructure.</p>	<p>Link: Economic Development Initiatives Help Communities to Thrive and Prosper</p> <p>Sub-regional economic development is important given the resource base (forestry, agriculture, mining etc.) make up that makes Ontario's diversity important to the economy and jobs.</p>

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	<p>balanced approach to transforming the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC) to ensure sustainable employment, continued economic growth, a strong transportation and telecommunication network in Northern Ontario.</p> <p>Continue to support regional investments at current funding levels – Eastern Ontario Development Fund, Southwestern Ontario Development Fund, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, Rural Economic Development Program and others to create jobs, growth and opportunities.</p> <p>Establish a 10 year, \$2.5B</p>		<p>Create an emerging industries fund to support jobs and growth in Ontario's high-tech and creative sectors (including film, television, digital, gaming, music, and publishing), putting them in a better position to hire local talent and compete globally.</p>	

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	<p>Jobs and Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>Connect infrastructure to jobs in the community by creating standards for use of local apprentices and engagement with the community.</p> <p>Change the Building Code to allow six-storey wood-frame buildings to encourage the construction of mid-rise, mixed use buildings.</p>			
GOOD IDEA: HELP PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL				
Provide affordable housing	<p>Enhance annual funding for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative by \$42 million starting in 2014–15, to a total of \$294 million.</p> <p>Replace existing Northern Allowance provided</p>		Will increase the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative by \$42 million annually, to \$294 million over 7 years.	Link: Housing Options that Meets Demand

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	through OW and ODSP with a Remote Communities Allowance.			
Ensure social assistance helps people find new and better jobs	<p>Continue supports and programs that promote hiring people with disabilities.</p> <p>The creation of a new \$50 million poverty reduction fund to support local solutions to poverty.</p> <p>\$2.5 million for a new Urban Aboriginal Action Plan.</p> <p>Move forward on social assistance reform by streamlining social assistance benefits; would not merge the municipally run Ontario Works program with the provincially run Ontario Disability Support Program.</p>	<p>Connect employers to people with disabilities to develop more opportunities and to reduce barriers that exist in the workplace.</p> <p>Create 200,000 apprenticeships by increasing opportunities in skilled trades. Source: Million Jobs Plan</p> <p>Combine OW and ODSP benefits for proposed savings of \$420 million by 2018. Source: PC Staff</p>	<p>Would increase ODSP by \$190 and work to have OW and ODSP reflect the actual cost of living Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.</p>	<p>Link: Social Assistance Transformation in Ontario</p>

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	Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.			
Settle newcomers with appropriate support	Continue to implement the Immigration Strategy. Call on the federal government to simplify and streamline the Foreign Credential Recognition Program. Introduce the Ontario Immigration Act. Work with the federal government to expand the Provincial Nominee Program.	Compete for skilled immigrants: concentrate on initiatives that match job-ready new Canadians with Ontario employers. Source: Million Jobs Plan		Link: AMO Releases Immigration Discussion Paper
GOOD IDEA: REDUCE THE COST OF GOVERNMENT				
Streamline administrative processes	Streamline social assistance employment benefits. Reduce burdens on businesses through	Reduce regulatory burden by one third in three years. For as many government services as possible, open	Open to considering new, streamlined processes for municipal reporting. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.	See letters to party leaders regarding municipal reporting requirements.

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	<p>renewal of the Open for Business initiative.</p> <p>Eliminate and reduce red tape for businesses – save \$100 million in costs by 2016-17.</p> <p>Reintroduce the Accountability Act, which will increase oversight by the Ontario Ombudsman; would work with AMO to identify best ways to expand accountability. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.</p> <p>Reintroduce the proposed Bill 34 changes to help municipalities collect unpaid fines at the first opportunity. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.</p>	<p>contracts to competition.</p> <p>Measures of interest to municipalities: eliminate rules that prohibit competitive bids on gov't construction projects; open up provision of workplace insurance to employers; fast track permit process for music and theatre festivals; eliminate bureaucracy, rules and subsidies to reduce hydro bill costs; focus mandate of conservation authorities to balance economic and environmental considerations; streamline processes in social assistance system; reduce government's operational role in lotteries and gaming. Source: Million Jobs Plan</p>	<p>Will consult and work with municipalities before making changes to the Ontario Ombudsman's oversight role that impact municipalities. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.</p> <p>The NDP supported Bill 34 and will take steps to implement changes to assist municipalities in collecting unpaid fines. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.</p>	

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Place fair limits on municipal liability	Continue to work with AMO to develop a practical and fair solution to this complex challenge. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.	Would support a comprehensive, long-term solution on joint and several liability. Source: PC Staff	Support changes to the joint and several liability framework. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.	Link: Legislature Supports Motion on Municipal Liability
Reward businesses and consumers who reduce their waste	Recognize the important role municipalities play in delivering quality recycling services and would reintroduce a waste reduction bill that reflects the Liberal Party's view that the municipal role should be recognized. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.	Would scrap eco-taxes and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy; would return all oversight authority to Ministry of Environment; would set measurable and achievable recycling targets, establish environmental standards and measure outcomes; would work with municipalities and businesses to find the right balance to ensure the Blue Box program becomes more efficient and costs Ontarians less money. Source: PC Staff	Supports extended producer responsibility and is committed to working to ensure that Bill 91, the <i>Waste Reduction Act</i> works for producers, service providers, municipalities and all Ontarians. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.	Link: Creating Greener Choices and Less Garbage

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GOOD IDEA: PROMOTE SAFE AND AFFORDABLE EMERGENCY SERVICES

<p>Make sure Ontario's communities can afford emergency services</p>	<p>Committed to working with AMO to implement the advice of AMO's OPP Billing Steering Committee for a 60:40 split between base costs and service calls; agree that commercial and industrial properties in OPP base cost calculations need to be included; having a 3rd party audit of the model before presentation to municipalities; and provide mitigation funding to manage the transition to a new model. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.</p> <p>Committed to address policing services by introducing a package of legislative or regulatory changes as early as Spring 2015 once the Future of</p>	<p>Will move to address arbitration awards to help contain the costs of emergency services for municipalities as laid out in the <i>Million Jobs Plan</i> and previously introduced <i>Capacity to Pay Act</i>. Source: Platform Municipalities would be consulted on how to best address the OPP billing model. Source: PC Staff</p>	<p>Will consult widely with municipalities and examine all funding options in coming up with an effective solution to help municipalities with policing costs. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.</p>	<p>Link: Affordable, Accountable and Transparent Arbitration Needed</p> <p>Link: Policing</p>
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	Policing Advisory Committee report's recommendations are received this fall. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.			
Restore faith in interest arbitration	Committed to working toward compromise to require arbitration decisions that are timely and provide detailed reasons so that municipalities do not have to wait for results and can understand why decisions have been made. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.	Would pursue changes including requiring public and private comparators within a municipality. Source: Million Jobs Plan	Recognize emerging difficulties for municipalities and are open to working with stakeholders to consider options to reform the arbitration system. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.	Link: Interest Arbitration Should be Efficient, Transparent and Accountable
GOOD IDEA: SUPPORT LONG-TERM PLANNING				
Create more reasonable planning processes and deadlines	Enhance respect and protection for local official plans when municipalities			Link: Land Use Planning – Foundation for Prosperity

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	do comprehensive, up-front planning and zoning. Reduce the number of development applications that go to the OMB. Remove barriers to the creation of new trails on private and public lands, including measures to reduce landowner liability.			
Recognize the importance of the Ontario Municipal Partnerships Fund	Proceed with the phase-down of the OMPF to \$500 million – the OMPF would be \$515 million in 2015. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.	Would continue the OMPF reduction to \$500 million annually by 2016 per the recommendations of the 2012 Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services (Drummond Commission) Source: PC staff.	Will work with municipalities to ensure the right level of funding is provided. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.	Link: Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)

PART TWO: OTHER PARTY COMMITMENTS THAT ARE OF KEY INTEREST TO MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS:

AMO will seek clarification on Specific Matters as they come forward:

Liberal Party:

- Will ensure that important policy initiatives that affect municipalities are brought forward to the AMO-MOU table as part of the policy development process. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.
- No plans to implement new municipal revenue tools, however would commit to working through the AMO-MOU table to develop new ways to manage costs and pay for essential services. Source: Letter to AMO, May 29, 2014.
- Consult with municipalities, taxpayers, and other northern stakeholders on reforms to the Provincial Land Tax to bring forward solutions that address tax fairness in northern Ontario later this year.
- Work with municipalities to improve sewer and storm water management.
- Invest \$30 million over 10 years to keep the Walkerton Clean Water Centre on the cutting edge of clean water training and research.
- Develop and support school-community hubs to promote efficient use of public assets and to build better ties between schools, municipalities and community organizations.
- Introduce a law mandating one metre of space between vehicles and cyclists.
- Expand the outer boundary of the Green Belt over the next six years.
- Work with municipalities to plant one million trees as part of the commitment to plant 50 million trees province-wide.
- Give municipalities the option of using ranked ballots as an alternative to first-past-the-post.
- Modernize the *Construction Lien Act* and introduce legislation to address payment risk within the sector.
- Support the *Child Care Modernization Act* by investing to protect licensed child care spaces and subsidies and improve the quality of care.

Progressive Conservative Party:

- Will reduce the size of government from 1.2 million employees to 1.1 million the 2009 complement over a four year period; to be done in a careful and thoughtful way that protects nurses, doctors, police and public safety workers; attrition will be the first choice. Municipal governments may be affected where there is program duplication, delivery models change and where contracting out of roles is executed. Source: PC Staff.
- Municipalities would be included in the Broader Public Sector wage freeze proposed by the Ontario PC party and the instruments used to implement this to ensure it is executed. Source: PC Staff.

- Would continue to support the changes the party put forward in the legislature to help improve municipal collection of defaulted *Provincial Offenses Act* fines (Source: PC Staff).
- Would be open to examining the possibility of DC for transit based on future average (Source: PC Staff); infrastructure for which DCs are collected must be in place sooner to support communities.
- Would not review Business Education Tax, Education Tax or Provincial Land Tax rates.
- Would bring public sector pensions in line with the private sector. Pensions already earned by government workers will be protected. Will offer the type of coverage that most of those who have pensions in the private sector receive – defined contribution. Source: PC Staff.

New Democratic Party:

- Will support and maintain the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process and work with municipalities to consider fairer representation for their interests. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.
- Committed to a review of the *Development Charges Act* working with stakeholders and would start by removing the discounts related to recreation, libraries, old age homes, child care, health departments and ambulance stations. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.
- Fund \$2 million per year to assist municipalities in protecting tenants and enforcing building standards and maintenance rules. Source: Letter to AMO, May 28, 2014.
- Commit \$2 million annually to ensure proper community consultation and environmental protection through provincial Environmental Assessments of pipeline projects that impact Ontario communities.
- Will provide critical relief funding to help childcare providers and parents during the first year in office and will provide ongoing funding to prevent the closure of childcare centres in 18 communities.
- Cutting provincial spending by \$600 million may have an impact on municipal governments.
- A Minister responsible for Savings and Accountability may impact municipalities if cuts to transfers were suggested.
- Creating 1,400 additional long-term care beds could include municipal long-term care facilities.