

CHANGE

for the better

for Eastern Ontario





a message from
Andrea Horwath

Dear friends,

I believe in the people of Ontario. That at the end of the day, we all want the same thing — a chance to build a good life for ourselves and our loved ones, no matter where in this great province you live.

But for far too long, we've been told to settle for less. Today, after 15 years of Liberal governments in Ontario, families are further from that goal instead of closer to it. We keep switching between Conservative and Liberal premiers who make our lives harder.

It doesn't have to be this way.

We can do better. We can replace the cynicism that people feel with a new hope.

Our party has worked with communities across the province to put together a complete, fully-costed platform, Change for the Better. In these pages, you'll find the changes to help families across Eastern Ontario.

Together, we can invest in our hospitals and community-based care, fix seniors care for our aging parents, and provide drug and dental care for every last Ontarian.

We can make Ontario a better place to work with good, sustainable jobs — and a better place to raise a family, with great schools at the heart of our communities.

And together, we can make life more affordable for everyone by making hydro public again, so we all pay less for it.

Let's give people hope for a better future in this great province. Because we all know it's possible.

Change for the better is coming.

Let's get it done, together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Horwath".

Andrea Horwath
Leader, Ontario's NDP



Five changes for the better for Eastern Ontario



End hallway medicine



Fix long-term care and eliminate the wait list for home care



Provide drug and dental care for all Ontarians



Make life more affordable by lowering hydro bills by 30%, and ending price gouging at the gas pumps



Create good jobs across Eastern Ontario from agriculture and agri-food to technology

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Health Care

IT'S THE NEW normal in Ontario hospitals: waiting for hours in emergency rooms, only to end up on a gurney in a hallway — with no privacy or dignity — because there aren't enough hospital beds.

Years of cuts and funding freezes have pushed hospitals across Ontario into a dangerous overcrowding crisis. The last Conservative government shut down 28 hospitals, closed over 7,000 beds and laid off 6,000 nurses. And Kathleen Wynne froze hospital operating budgets for four years in a row, forcing hospitals to make deep cuts.

Today, many hospitals report occupancy rates of over 100%— far above the safe international standard of 85%. Surgeries are being routinely cancelled. And patients are being treated right in the hallway. Ottawa's Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario is an incredible hospital, but it has been forced to send children as far as Toronto because of overcrowding, something the hospital does only when every single other option has been exhausted. Every parent knows that there is nothing more important than caring for sick children. Andrea Horwath will ensure our hospitals have the resources to care for every Ontarian.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will restore hospital funding and ensure it keeps pace every year with inflation, population growth, aging and the unique needs of communities. Funding will increase immediately by 5.3%.

We will make sure that hospitals have the staff they need to provide excellent patient care. That begins with bringing all stakeholders



and partners to the table for a comprehensive review of staffing needs. We will stop any further layoffs of nurses and front-line health care workers.

We will take immediate steps to expand hospital capacity — starting with funding for 2,000 hospital beds now. We will invest at least \$19 billion over 10 years in hospital capital expansion to meet growing capacity needs.

Eastern Ontario is home to the majority of Ontario's francophone population. We will protect and increase access to health care services in French, including delivering public dental services in *Centres de santé communautaire*.

Eastern Ontario has the longest wait lists for home care. Over 2,800 people in Eastern Ontario are waiting for personal support services. An NDP government will invest \$300 million to eliminate the home care wait list, ensuring that every person in Eastern Ontario who needs home care will get the high-quality, reliable care they need. Our investment will also deliver more respite services

for family caregivers, and get rid of the arbitrary caps on care put in place by the Conservatives and maintained by the Liberals.

We will build 15,000 new long-term care beds in the next 5 years, and 40,000 over the next 10 years, ensuring seniors can find excellent long-term care near their family, and we will deliver a legislated minimum standard of 4 hours of hands-on care to ensure every resident lives in comfort and dignity. We recognize the need, particularly in Eastern Ontario, for French-speaking staff and we will expand culturally-appropriate long-term care, where seniors have access to care in their own language, and engaging in activities they know and love.

Our New Moms Guarantee will protect local delivery rooms in small and rural communities and will hire 360 new midwives across Ontario.

The opioid crisis has touched every region in Ontario, and Eastern Ontario is no exception. Deaths from drugs like fentanyl have cast a shadow on thousands of families. Andrea Horwath and the NDP will declare a public health emergency, recognizing the scope and seriousness of the crisis and mobilizing resources across the province.

We will focus most urgently on harm reduction, to save lives now. We will expand the distribution of Naloxone and other anti-overdose medications, and support the establishment and operation of supervised injection sites and overdose prevention sites wherever they are needed. And we will listen to front-line harm reduction workers and people with lived experience because they are the experts — and the heroes who are saving lives every day.

Building new public services

ONTARIANS DESERVE ACCESS to high-quality public services no matter where they live. Andrea Horwath and the NDP understand the difference that quality public services can make. Ottawa has the second highest child care fees in Ontario, and the cost of licensed, not-for-profit child care is made more galling and frustrating for families who can look across the border to Québec and see the effect of government decisions to make child care more affordable.

We will ensure that families throughout Eastern Ontario have access to high quality services, including but not limited to develop-

mental supports, free licensed not-for-profit child care for families earning \$40,000 or less, and affordable child care for all Ontario families that averages \$12 a day, and supports for children with autism. We will build over 200,000 new, licensed not-for-profit child care spaces. We will work with school boards, community centres and public buildings to create new centres and spaces, with a priority on public schools. And we will work with Ontario colleges that have ECE programs to increase the number of Lab Programs where children of students receive care while their parents get hands-on learning.

But we aren't just going to undo the damage of 20 years of cuts and neglect. We're going to move Ontario forward with bold new universal programs that meet the needs of a changing, modern province, including drug and dental coverage for everyone.

Pharmacare for Everyone will cover 90% of prescriptions. It will ensure that every Ontarian, no matter their age or income will receive drug coverage.

We will ensure every Ontarian can see a dentist. In addition to ensuring people can see their dentist, people will be able to get care through community health centres, public health units, or Aboriginal health access centres. Many small, rural communities do not have a dentist, which is why we will invest in 7 new dental buses and 70 new dental clinics to serve communities without a dentist.



Drug and dental care for all Ontarians will ensure employers across Eastern Ontario can compete on a level playing field, while ensuring families have better services, and helping families afford to build a good life across the province.

Great Communities

Transit

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will fund 50% of net transit and paratransit operating costs. For OC Transpo this will mean over \$142 million and \$8 million for Kingston Transit.

This funding will immediately allow transit operators to improve services, add routes, provide more equitable and affordable fares, have the financial stability to experiment and pilot innovative solutions like timed transfers, and efficiently operate new transit lines like Ottawa's Confederation and Trillium Lines.

As we start sharing the cost of operating existing transit, we will continue to build new

transit across the province. We will put a focus on the timely completion of the Confederation Line, and are committed to the Trillium Line.

An NDP government will direct Metrolinx to begin multilateral discussions with the federal government and local transit authorities focused on co-ordinating GO train and VIA Rail service with urban transit. That means fare integration, coordinated scheduling, joint funding, and even the possibility of shared rolling stock. We will make it a priority to build inter-city transit options through existing public services and working in collaboration with private bus services so that more

people can get around the province without needing to drive.

CYCLING AND VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

More and more people are getting out of their cars. We will work to ensure all municipalities have active transportation plans — strategies for promoting walking, cycling and other human propelled transportation, by 2021.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will update Ontario's Cycling Strategy, setting a specific goal for the number of trips by bicycle. The strategy will set out investment targets to improve cycling infrastructure across Ontario, with a particular focus on commuting routes.

And we will pass a Vulnerable Road Users' Law specifically designed to protect people such as cyclists and pedestrians. We will support the implementation of Vision Zero Road Safety Plans, which aim to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries to zero.

Agriculture

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will raise the cap the Liberals imposed on the Risk Management Program in 2012, which rendered a made-in-Ontario solution to global instability unreliable and ineffective. We will ensure the program is properly funded so farmers can invest, knowing that the Risk Management Program will be there in tough times like disease or weather.

We will defend supply management for Ontario's farmers.

We will protect Ontario's Production Insurance Program, and work with farmers to keep

it fully funded and simple to access, so it offers them real protection.

We will work with farming groups to ensure young farmers can get their foot in the door. And we will expand the government's definition of farming and food production to include new definitions such as urban farming.

Our 10-year \$1 billion investment in rural broadband will ensure farmers across Eastern Ontario have access to broadband and can use the most advanced farming technologies.



PROTECTING FARMLAND

We will work with farmers and municipal leaders to protect Ontario's prime farmland from encroachment by speculators and aggregate extraction. We will protect the integrity of the Greenbelt and ensure that where there is the potential for overlapping protections, the stronger protections will apply.

PROCESSING

Food processing is an important industry in Eastern Ontario, and New Democrats will stand with workers and employers in this

sector. We will invest in the infrastructure needed to get agricultural products to processing facilities and then get foods to market. Working with the Ministries of Agriculture

and International Trade, we will ensure that farmers, processors and agricultural industries can succeed and grow at a time of immense trade instability.

Affordability

AFTER DECADES OF Conservative and Liberal governments, it's harder to make ends meet, harder to pay the bills, and harder to get ahead. Andrea Horwath and the NDP know there's a lot government can do to make life more affordable.

Hydro costs

Our plan to own more of, and pay less for, hydro will reduce bills by 30% now and in the long-term, unlike the Conservatives and Liberals whose plan will increase bills by 70% in the decade following the election. We will return Hydro One to public hands; reduce bills immediately; end mandatory time-of-day pricing; and, make permanent fixes to the system for the long term.

Gasoline costs

Many Ontarians want to get out of their cars, but simply don't have that choice yet. In the meantime, they're being gouged at the gas pumps. An NDP government will bring stability and transparency to gas prices. We will get rid of the wild price swings and the regional inequities that make life harder for drivers.

Housing

A home you love is a foundation for a good life. It should be affordable, safe, and in an area with the services you need, so it can feel like a home where you and your loved ones can build



a great life. And at its most basic level, housing is a human right.

In cities across Eastern Ontario the cost of buying and renting is going up.

Our goal will be to ensure every Ontarian can access safe, affordable housing. Whether a family wants to rent or own; live in a house, an apartment, a condominium or a co-op, they should have affordable options.

We will keep the affordable housing we already have. Andrea Horwath and the NDP have committed to funding the province's one-third share of repairing social housing across Ontario, with the municipal and federal governments contributing their one-third shares as well.

We will build new affordable homes — 65,000 of them over the next decade. Andrea Horwath will sign on to the federal National Housing Strategy, which will fund the construction of about 20,000 units, including non-profit and co-op housing. Our 10-year capital plan will make additional investments to build the remaining 45,000 units. And we will provide the co-op housing sector with \$3 million to seed co-op bid development.

We will encourage an array of options for housing. That includes affordable, neighbourhood-oriented homes including mid-rises, townhouses and stacked townhouses that sell for dramatically less than the cost of a detached

home. We'll use such measures as requiring a minimum density in developments along new transit lines, letting municipalities opt out of some minimum parking requirements, and requiring coordinated planning of retail and housing in medium-density developments. And, working with municipalities, we'll create a new Residents' Rights Act so homeowners can add legal apartments, laneway houses and 'granny flats' to their properties.

An Ontario NDP government will work with municipal governments to ensure we are building neighbourhoods where families can grow and put down roots.

Education

Colleges and Universities

Eastern Ontario offers excellent options for post-secondary learning, teaching and innovation. We know that a good education is the key to a good job that can support a family. The innovation and research and development that comes from post-secondary institutions is essential to the future of our economy.

We will make it easier for students to attend college or university with a game-changing initiative: provincial loans for all new post-secondary students will become grants. Every student whose family is eligible for the Ontario Student Assistance Plan will graduate free of any debt to the province.

We will retroactively forgive all interest for everyone carrying provincial student loan debts. And we will create a fund within the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to create opportunities



for mid-career education, offering training for people who are working and those who are between employment.

In addition to supporting students, we will ensure our institutions and faculty can continue to lead by launching a faculty renewal strategy that supports converting contract educators to full-time professors and instructors, and investing in more tenure-track faculty

positions. We'll end the financial choke-hold on colleges and universities by lifting the budget freeze. And we'll make sure funding keeps up, so post-secondary institutions can offer the choices and quality of instruction Ontario students deserve.

Finally, we will welcome the first students to the Franco-Ontarian university. New Democrats have led the fight to establish a province-wide university where students can earn a degree studying in French. The franco-phone community has waited long enough.

Reconciliation with First Nations

IT HAS BEEN nearly three years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission delivered its report, and its 94 calls to action to heal the relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples.

Yet First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Ontario continue to face systemic barriers to basic rights enjoyed by others in Ontario — dirty water, unsafe housing, gendered violence, unfair treatment by the justice and child welfare systems and more.

Reconciliation demands a lot more than symbolic gestures. It demands good faith — and it demands action.

New Democrats are committed to a new relationship based on reconciliation and a true government-to-government relationship. As

Protecting rural schools

In addition to our promise to address Ontario's \$16 billion school repair backlog, New Democrats are committed to keeping rural schools open, while Doug Ford has refused to protect schools in Ontario's rural communities.

In addition to being good for families, we know the importance of local schools for attracting and retaining investment and jobs in rural communities.



part of this, an NDP government will ensure that the financial benefits from our province's natural wealth benefit First Nations. It's why New Democrats will, working with First Nations leadership, transfer the province's share of mining taxes to First Nations.

We will listen to First Nations leaders who are already leading the transformation of First Nations health care, and do all we can to support their work.

We will double Ontario's investment in the First Nations Health Action Plan, providing at least \$209 million per year, starting in 2019.

This will support services ranging from more physician days, to expanded youth programs, crisis support, trauma response teams, and suicide-prevention training, to improved diabetes prevention and management.

We won't allow jurisdictional disputes between the federal and provincial governments to stand in the way of action and keep people from the care they need. Instead of arguing with the federal government first and acting later, we will act first — following the lead of

First Nations — and argue with the federal government later.

Far too many First Nations and Indigenous people have been told to settle for unacceptable access to health care, not to mention a lack of safe drinking water in roughly 90 communities. We will, in partnership with the communities involved, invest the capital needed to ensure communities have sustainable access to clean water. And we will send the bill to Ottawa.

Economic Development

ANDREA HORWATH AND the NDP will develop and implement a cluster strategy focused on bringing together all players within a strategic regional industry. Ottawa is home to an established telecom and technology cluster, and Kingston is an emerging agri-food centre. We will build upon these strengths.

We will bring together local small and medium sized businesses, large anchor organizations, their suppliers, local colleges and universities, and all levels of government to collaborate on strategies to enhance the competitiveness of our regional industries. This includes leveraging the talents of post-secondary students and new graduates by creating 27,000 new paid co-ops and other placements. While Liberal and Conservative governments have abandoned whole regions and economies, New Democrats will build on their strengths across Ontario.

We will harness public and private sector leadership, private capital, labour expertise and



both private and public infrastructure investment to create successful clusters. In addition to investing in roads and transportation infrastructure that supports business, our 10-year \$1 billion investment in rural broadband will ensure businesses across Eastern Ontario can sell and compete globally.



**Andrea will deliver better health care,
and make Ontario a better place to work
and a more affordable place to live.**

Five changes for the better



Provide drug and dental coverage for all Ontarians



Take on student debt by converting loans to grants, and creating thousands of student co-op jobs



End halfway medicine and fix seniors care



Protect middle class families by having the wealthiest people and most profitable corporations pay their fair share



Cut hydro bills 30% by bringing Hydro One back into public hands