

# CHANGE

for the better

for the GTHA





a message from  
**Andrea Horwath**

Dear friends,

I know you love the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area as much as I do. And like you, I believe we can do more to make it more livable — so that people can build their best life, right here.

So let's do it.

Let's make life better for families by giving every last person the prescription drug and dental coverage we all deserve, and making child care more affordable for everyone. Let's tackle housing affordability issues.

Let's shorten health care wait times and relieve the pressure on overcrowded hospitals.

Let's make our commutes smoother — whether you're driving or taking transit — and let's fix the schools in our communities instead of letting them crumble.

The NDP and I have a complete, fully-costed platform, *Change for the Better*. These are some changes for the better for GTHA families.

After decades of switching between Liberal and Conservative governments, people across the GTHA are feeling the squeeze. And after 15 years of the Liberals letting people down, folks are feeling pretty cynical about politics.

It's time to replace that cynicism with hope.

It's time for something completely different. No more settling.

Let's get it done together.

Andrea Horwath  
Leader, Ontario's NDP



# Five changes for the better for GTHA families



Make child care affordable for all with an average cost of \$12 per day



Tackle urban poverty and lift people up



Lower auto insurance by 15% and end postal code discrimination



Make housing more affordable by building thousands of affordable housing units and cracking down on housing speculation



Improve public transit by building new lines and delivering reliable, affordable service

# Contents

## **Affordable Livable Cities .....4**

Housing .....	4
Child Care .....	5
Auto Insurance .....	6

## **Building Vibrant Urban Communities.....6**

Schools .....	6
Public Spaces.....	7
Health Care.....	7
Sustainable Communities .....	8
Working with Cities.....	8
Ending Carding .....	8
Urban Poverty .....	8
Ending the Opioid Crisis .....	9
Better Commutes .....	9
Good Jobs.....	10
Arts .....	11
Libraries.....	11

## **Manufacturing.....12**

Steel.....	12
------------	----

## **Toronto as Provincial Capital .....12**

# Affordable Livable Cities

## Housing

We are committed to making housing more affordable for families in the GTHA and across Ontario. That means modern, effective rent controls, protection for condo buyers and owners, building 65,000 units of affordable housing, cracking down on housing speculation that's made home ownership unaffordable for so many people, and building the supportive housing our cities need.

### RENTALS

We will make rentals more affordable by introducing legislation to provide:

- ➔ Effective, reasonable, predictable rent controls that limit the use of above-guideline increases to “renovict” people from their homes
- ➔ A rent registry, so tenants can know how much a landlord has charged in the past
- ➔ Protection for renters who pay their rent and abide by their agreements
- ➔ Updated rules that recognize changing rental markets
- ➔ Guarantees that rents will remain affordable in the long term, while spurring investments in new, purpose-built rental buildings

### CONDOS

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will protect condominium buyers from surprise fees and other issues. We will ensure that:

- ➔ Disputes can be resolved quickly, without long, expensive court battles
- ➔ Owners can expect transparency and accountability from condo boards

- ➔ Advertising materials reflect realistic costs and fees
- ➔ Owners have protection from shoddy or incompetent construction

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We will keep the affordable housing we already have, saving thousands of units that could be lost due to disrepair. Andrea Horwath and the NDP have committed to funding the province's one-third share of repairing social housing across Ontario.

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.

### HOME OWNERSHIP

We will crack down on housing speculators who are driving up housing costs, especially in the GTHA. Our Housing Speculation Tax will put a surtax on foreign and domestic speculators who don't pay taxes in Ontario.

We'll build the “missing middle” by 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. That way, more people can buy a home close to transit, and we can avoid the displacement

that can come with new development. We will work with municipalities to create a new *Residents' Rights Act* so homeowners can add legal apartments, laneway houses and 'granny flats' to their properties.

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

There's a critical shortage of the supportive housing that allows people dealing with mental health challenges to live independently while getting the supports they need. It makes life harder than it needs to be for people who are struggling, and it often leads to major pressures on shelters.

We will invest in 30,000 new supportive housing units over the next 10 years, building at least 3,000 every year — the number recommended by the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council — and funding ongoing rent supplements and support staff costs. We will invest \$228 million per year in capital funding, plus operational funding that increases by \$50 million per year.

## Child Care

After 15 years of Liberal government, Ontario has the most expensive child care in Canada, and Toronto has the most expensive child care in Ontario. Work by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives shows that child care costs have increased six times faster than inflation.

New Democrats have a plan to increase the number of high-quality, licensed not-for-profit child care spaces by 10% per year, and attract new professionals through a new wage grid for Early Childhood Educators.



Child care will be free for parents based on financial need, not the age of their children. Andrea Horwath and the NDP will phase in an affordable, province-wide child care plan, starting with care for infants and toddlers in the second year of our mandate, and preschoolers in the third year. We will base our plan and costs on the Ontario Coalition for Better Childcare's recommendations.

If household income is under \$40,000, those parents won't have to pay for public, licensed, not-for-profit child care. And if household income is more, fees will be based on ability to pay — with the average cost coming to \$12 per day. We will not reduce existing subsidies.

Our plan makes it a priority to help parents get back to work as soon as they want, instead of waiting for years. It builds capacity both in terms of new spaces, and new child care workers, and it is based on three key principles:

- ➔ Child care must be affordable for everyone
- ➔ Public child care dollars should go to not-for-profit and public providers — funds shouldn't pad the profits of private companies
- ➔ Early childhood educators deserve a fair wage that respects the vital work they do

## Auto Insurance

The Liberal government agreed in 2013 to an NDP demand to reduce auto insurance rates by 15%. But they reneged, and have allowed rates to steadily increase ever since. We will bring insurance premiums down by 15% — and we will look beyond the current system if insurance providers do not provide the savings people deserve.

# Building Vibrant Urban Communities

## Schools

Too many students in the GTHA are going to school in buildings without proper heat or cooling, with leaky roofs or stairways overdue for repair. After years of Conservative and Liberal governments neglecting schools, the backlog of needed repairs has reached \$15 billion. An NDP government will invest \$16 billion over 10 years to repair our schools.

And we will fund schools properly. We will work with parents, front-line educators, students, and educational experts to overhaul the education funding formula, starting with a comprehensive public review based on two key principles: equity and quality.

We will base special education funding on actual needs, not overall populations, with timely needs assessments.

Urban development, especially in Toronto, is creating a need for more schools to serve families in areas with rapidly growing

It's not right that safe drivers pay hundreds of dollars more for their insurance just because of the neighbourhood they live in. We will end neighbourhood discrimination in auto insurance — where people in poorer neighbourhoods end up paying more for their coverage. Your premiums will be based on your car and how you drive, not your postal code.



dense populations like, for example, Liberty Village. We'll fix the rules around Education Development Charges — payments developers make when they build new homes or condos — so they can be used to fund new schools.

We will ensure history education includes the full, rich story of Indigenous peoples, the lasting impacts of colonialism and residential schools, and the need for reconciliation.

We will work with Black communities, historians and educators to incorporate teaching about the history of Black Ontarians, our province's history with the Underground Railroad, and Caribbean and African experiences.

We will work to end the streaming of racialized youth into educational tracks that don't recognize — and can't realize — their individual potential. It's a core value that students deserve equity in education.

## Public Spaces

We will work with school boards to continue to develop schools as community hubs where everyone can access great public services and public spaces.

We will work to protect and grow urban parks and green space so families can enjoy the outdoors no matter what part of a city they live in.

## Health Care

GTHA communities like Brampton are among the fastest growing in Canada, and after a decade of underfunding, hospitals across the GTHA are doing their best with the resources they have, but it has led to a provincial overcrowding crisis.

Whether it's Brampton Civic Hospital, which treated 4,352 patients in hallways between 2016 and 2017, UHN in Toronto, operating at 98% capacity when the safe level is 85%, or The Hospital for Sick Children, which reached 114% capacity in 2017, GTHA hospitals are overcrowded because of decisions made by the Liberal government. We will end hallway medicine.

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.

And we will maintain the planned \$19 billion for health-care infrastructure to ensure growing communities from Hamilton to Brampton have the health infrastructure they need.

We will also invest in new community-governed non-profit health centres (as well as new satellite locations for existing centres) in the 35 regions that need them but don't yet have one. That includes fast-growing, underserved GTA communities like Mississauga, Brampton, York Region and Scarborough.

We will ensure universal access to drug and dental coverage so every Ontarian, regardless of age or income, can get dental care and fill a prescription.

## Sustainable Communities

People in the GTHA deserve clean air and water, and to know that their government will fight climate change in a way that's fair, effective and transparent.

We will set aggressive and achievable targets to reduce air and water pollution across the province, including in our urban rivers and the Great Lakes. We will move ahead with studies of the cumulative effects of air pollution in Hamilton.

We believe polluters should pay for the emissions they release, and we will continue with pricing carbon through a fair, effective and transparent cap-and-trade market. At least 25% of the revenues from cap-and-trade will support communities and individuals who today are carrying more than their fair share of the burden — such as low-income Ontarians — and assist trade-exposed industries.

## Working with Cities

Toronto, Hamilton and municipalities across the province deserve a partner at Queen's Park that respects cities and municipal governments.

For too long, Liberals and Conservatives have failed to treat municipalities as partners by downloading costs and responsibility and forcing amalgamations. A New Democrat government will recognize the regional, economic, social and cultural diversity of Ontario municipalities and make sure the province holds up its fair share of responsibility. We'll put a stop to downloading provincial expenses and responsibilities to local governments.



This means fairly sharing responsibility for transit, housing and childcare costs, and ensuring that cities are at the table when the province is making decisions on the issues that affect them.

And we will allow municipal governments to experiment with reforms such as permanent resident voting and alternative voting, to encourage greater participation in civic life.

## Ending Carding

We will ban carding. Progress on halting this unjust practice has left big loopholes — and we are going to close them. Carding is wrong, and nobody in Ontario should be stopped without cause.

## Urban Poverty

On the Liberal watch, Toronto has become the child poverty capital of Canada. In a province as wealthy as Ontario this is unacceptable.

To combat urban poverty, we will:

- ➔ Build 65,000 new units of affordable housing
- ➔ Ensure all Ontarians have dental and drug coverage
- ➔ Set a \$15 minimum wage for everyone

We endorse the provincial Income Security Roadmap for Change report and its findings.

The rules governing social assistance are complicated and often punitive. The focus of the social assistance system should be helping people overcome barriers, get out of poverty and participate in society. Social assistance should be based on trust, working together, and solving problems.

According to the recommendation made in the Roadmap, we will begin by establishing a new, flat rate structure that is simple and fair.

Based on the advice of the working group, people receiving Ontario Works will receive increases of 10%, 7% and 5%, while people receiving support from the Ontario Disability Support Program will see annual increases of 5%. Future increases will be based on income adequacy, and set by an independent panel.

We will continue Ontario's Basic Income pilot and evaluate its outcomes. We endorse the call to develop a minimum income standard over the next decade that will lift people out of poverty.

We are committed to making jobs better by increasing the minimum wage to \$15 before indexing it to inflation, making it easier for people to join a union, making workplaces safer, and building an economy focused on people.

## Ending the Opioid Crisis

The opioid overdose emergency has now touched every community in Ontario. There's no question that the crisis has exacted an especially heavy toll on marginalized and vulnerable communities. For people living in poverty, who don't have stable housing, or who are coping with the legacy of colonialism and the pain of systemic racism, there's a much higher risk of dying.

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 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'll work with the Opioid Emergency Task Force to provide evidence-based strategies to save lives and fight addiction.

## Better Commutes

### TRANSIT

After 15 years of transit promises from the Liberals, too many people spend too long waiting for a bus, streetcar or subway to arrive. And when it finally does come, they're packed. We don't need to wait decades to improve transit. We can do it now.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will fund 50% of net transit and paratransit operating costs. In Toronto this will mean \$330 million in direct, operational funding for the TTC and Wheel-Trans. For Hamilton this will provide over \$33 million for the HSR and DARTS.



This funding will immediately allow transit operators to improve services, provide more equitable and affordable fares, and have the financial stability to experiment and pilot innovative solutions like timed transfers, low-income passes, updated Ridership Growth Strategies, or experimentation like the TTC's King Street Transit Pilot.

As we ensure local transit operators have the stable operational funding they need to deliver high-quality services, we will continue to build new transit in the GTHA and across Ontario.

Andrea Horwath will prioritize the Toronto Relief Line (Downtown Relief Line). The TTC needs options to address subway overcrowding, and the Relief Line is essential.

We'll build Hamilton's long-awaited LRT. Hamilton can't wait any longer.

In 2013, Kathleen Wynne's government promised that the UP Express would be electrified by 2017, but today, loud dirty diesel trains continue to run through residential neighbourhoods. An NDP government will move to electrify the UP Express as soon as possible.

GO Transit is essential to commuters across the GTHA. Under NDP leadership, Metrolinx will coordinate services, schedules, and potentially rolling stock with local transit authorities as well as VIA rail. People paying a fare with PRESTO on GO or the Union Pearson Express for a trip within Toronto, or a GO trip of less than 10 km, will pay a \$3 fare. We will continue to build GO regional express rail.

## **CYCLING AND VULNERABLE ROAD USERS**

More and more people in the GTHA 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 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.

## **Good Jobs**

### **WORKPLACE BENEFITS**

We will improve every job in Toronto, Hamilton, and the rest of the GTHA, by ensuring every worker has access to dental benefits. Ontario Benefits will be an innovative new workplace benefits plan — an affordable way

for employers to offer a decent level of benefits coverage for their workers. The NDP's vision is to grow Ontario Benefits over time to ensure workers receive additional workplace benefits like vision care and registered therapies.

With our plan, every worker will have workplace benefits for themselves and their family. That includes people in part-time or casual jobs. And it includes independent workers, like people on contract or freelance, who need an innovative new model for health benefits that works in the changing economy — a model where health benefits follow the person, not the job.

### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS**

We will expand Community Benefits Agreements, making them integral to all infrastructure projects. These agreements give experience to Ontario apprentices and give growing companies a chance to supply projects with their goods and services — while setting standards for efficiency and climate-resilient construction.

## **Arts**

The GTHA is a global centre for the arts. Andrea Horwath and the NDP believe a career in music, visual arts, theatre, writing or anywhere else should not mean a struggle to get by. The Ontario Benefits program and universal pharmacare will help ensure that people working in the arts have access to drug and dental care — and make us more attractive for film and TV projects as they consider production locations.

Hamilton and Toronto have incredible and unique music scenes from symphony orchestras, to Drake, to the Arkells and everything in

between. We are home to writers ranging from Rupi Kaur to Omar el Akkad. We will work to support artists in receiving fair royalties, benefits, and compensation for their work.

We will stabilize annual funding for the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Media Development Corporation, and ensure it meets the needs of both new and established artists.

Our film and TV industry has shown it is second to none, with Toronto and Hamilton productions winning Academy Awards, Emmys, and Golden Globes, in addition to numerous Canadian Screen Awards.

We will grow our film and TV sector by maintaining our tax incentives and establishing a new \$50-million fund over the next five years out of the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to match TV and film industry investment in new studio space.

## **Libraries**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will lift the freeze on funding for public libraries.

We will build on the success of the Toronto Public Library's Museum + Arts Pass program, allowing library patrons to get a pass to local museums and galleries. The program is scheduled to end. Instead, we will save it and extend it to communities like Hamilton, Brampton, Mississauga and Oakville with a \$3 million annual investment.

We will work with librarians, library boards and information experts to improve library systems across Ontario.

# Manufacturing

The mayors of Toronto, Hamilton, Brampton, Oakville, and Mississauga are all members of Ontario's Auto Mayors. The GTHA is a major player in Ontario's auto and auto parts sectors. New Democrats have an Auto and Manufacturing Strategy focused on making Ontario the premier destination for the next generation of auto manufacturing investment.

Together with industry, labour and our college system, we will identify skills gaps and work to close them.

We will create a stream within the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to promote manufacturing research and development.

We will work with the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council and Ontario's new Chief Investment Officer to create a "single window" for automotive and manufacturing investment.

## Steel

Ontario's steel industry has been essential to the economy and identity of our province for over 100 years. For generations the industry has supported families by creating good, stable jobs. Ontario steel has quite literally built our province. The combination of skilled workers, innovation and geography grew the industry and is essential to its long term health. We believe in the future of steel. Unlike PC and Liberal governments, an NDP government will never stand by doing nothing while plants close and steel workers lose their jobs, their pensions and their benefits.

Steel workers and the steel industry know that they can count on New Democrats to work with them to strengthen and support the industry, create jobs, and ensure Ontario steel has a bright future.

# Toronto as Provincial Capital

Toronto is one of the world's great cities. Its size, economic clout, diversity, social and cultural importance make it unique. An NDP government will work in partnership with Toronto to recognize that it often faces unique challenges, and needs unique solutions, and recognize that Toronto's profile attracts tourism and economic activity that benefit all of Ontario. As the province's capital, all Ontarians should feel welcomed and proud when they are in Toronto.





**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 hallway 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