

CHANGE

for the better

Niagara and Southwestern Ontario





a message from
Andrea Horwath

Dear friends,

I love Ontario and I'm inspired, every day, by the people who live here. At the end of the day, we all want the same thing — a chance to build a good life for our loved ones, with good jobs, more opportunities for young people and dignity for every senior.

It's not too much to ask for.

But for so long, we've been told to settle for less. To switch between Conservative and Liberal Premiers who make our lives harder. It's left folks feeling pretty disappointed and cynical about politics.

I believe it doesn't have to be this way.

This time, we can do something completely different.

We just need a Premier who works for you — and puts people at the heart of every decision we make. And that's the job I'm running to do.

New Democrats have worked with communities across the province to put together a complete, fully-costed platform, *Change for the Better*. And in these pages, you'll find changes for the better that we'll deliver for Southwestern Ontario and the Niagara Region.

Let's make sure our loved ones get the health care they need, when they need it. And protect the schools at the heart of our communities.

Let's support good jobs that build on the incredible strengths of this region, and give young people a better start.

Let's make life more affordable by making hydro public again, so we all pay less for it. And make it easier to commute, with faster transit options and safer roads.

We don't have to settle for less. We can replace the cynicism that people feel with hope. And make life easier for every family.

Change for the better isn't only possible — it's coming.

Let's get it done together.

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

Andrea Horwath
Leader, Ontario's NDP



Six changes for the better for

Niagara and Southwestern Ontario



Ending hallway medicine, and protecting and improving health care in small and rural communities



Strengthening the innovation economy and innovation jobs



Safer highways and better transit with a Southwest Transportation Strategy



Making sure Ontario is the premier destination for auto and manufacturing and good auto-sector and manufacturing jobs – now, and in the future



Protecting prime agricultural lands and drinking water



Making life more affordable by lowering Hydro bills by 30% and getting rid of mandatory Time of Use pricing

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Health care

ALL ACROSS THE province, Ontarians are facing a crisis in hallway medicine, and southwestern Ontario is ground zero. Bluewater Health in Sarnia has been described as “bursting at the seams”. Brantford General Hospital was overcrowded for nearly two years, reaching occupancy that was 50% above safe levels. And London Health Sciences has had to cut \$141 million from its overall budget — the equivalent of 488 full-time jobs — while being forced to adopt a new “hallway protocol” to manage operating at over 100% capacity for two years.

While the Liberals have refused to even acknowledge the crisis, Doug Ford has promised deep cuts and privatization.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will invest in hospitals. We will open 2,000 new beds immediately. That includes immediately opening 89 beds at Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare in Windsor that are currently sitting empty.



We will build the South Niagara Hospital while ensuring communities in Niagara do not lose their local hospital services.

In addition to opening beds, an NDP government will ensure hospital funding keeps up with inflation, population growth, aging, and the unique needs of our communities — like the needs of rural hospitals. This change for the better will fully fund programs like London’s Cardiac Fitness Institute, which is vital to the recovery and ongoing health of people with heart issues.

In addition to care in hospitals, we will invest in community health and in eliminating waits for home care. We will also improve access to mental health care by hiring 2,200 new mental health care workers, because nobody should be left without the care they need.

Our seniors deserve respectful care that empowers them to live in dignity. Within 100 days an Ontario NDP government will expand the mandate of the Wettlaufer inquiry into long-term care to “find and fix” the specific problems that have been stripping seniors of their dignity and confidence in their safety.

We will increase quality and access by ensuring every long-term care resident receives 4 hours of hands-on care every day. And we will build 40,000 new long-term care beds in the next 10 years focused on the not-for-profit and municipal sector, both in cities and small communities.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will also work to build the compassionate palliative care system

that Ontario needs — starting by passing Dan’s Law. Named in Dan Duma’s memory, this legislation will eliminate the three-month waiting period for home and palliative care.

We will improve palliative care by continuing previously-committed investments of \$75 million over three years, and the additional investment of \$15 million in 2018-19, in order to increase access to community-based palliative care and hospices across the province.



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.

We will ensure that families throughout Niagara and Southwestern Ontario have access to high quality services, including but not limited to developmental 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.

That means we will build over 200,000 new, licensed not-for-profit spaces by working with school boards, community centres and public buildings to create new centres and spaces, with a priority on public schools. We will also work with Ontario colleges that have

ECE programs to increase the number of lab programs that provide child care for parents while giving hands-on learning experience to the next cohort of Early Childhood Educators.

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 uni-versal programs that meet the needs of a changing, modern province: dental care, prescription drug care and affordable child care.

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 or 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 Southwestern Ontario and Niagara can compete on a level playing field, while providing families with better services and helping them afford to build a good life across the province.

Cutting Hydro bills by 30%

Andrea Horwath and the NDP have released a detailed plan to cut your Hydro bills by 30%.

Returning Hydro One to public ownership will help it serve the public interest again. Re-establishing independent, transparent public oversight will make sure of it.

Our plan for immediate cost reduction includes steps like getting rid of mandatory time-of-use charges that do nothing for conservation, capping private profit margins, ensuring rural users pay the same delivery costs as urban users and exempting First Nations communities from electricity delivery charges.



Southwest Transportation Strategy

AN NDP GOVERNMENT will develop a comprehensive Southwest Transportation Strategy centered on coordinated public transit and safer highways.

New Democrats understand the need for fast and reliable passenger rail service along a dedicated corridor through the southwest. Succeeding will mean putting all the options on the table. We will continue the current high speed rail environmental assessment, and expand it to include other high speed options like high performance rail. As we explore the full suite of technology options we will broaden the environmental assessment to include other corridor options because we know that building fast rail will only be successful if communities on the corridor are willing partners and see benefits from these investments, and that prime farmland is protected.

We will begin to fill gaps in intercity passenger services caused by uncoordinated federal, provincial and local services. This will mean directing Metrolinx to begin multilateral discussions with the federal government and local transit authorities focused on coordinating GO train, VIA Rail service, intercity bus services, and urban transit. It will also include working to provide immediate improvements such as fare integration, coordinated scheduling, joint funding, and even the possibility of shared rolling stock.



We will honour commitments to Metrolinx Regional Express Rail, but unlike the Liberals we will ensure service arrives on time. This means two-way all-day service between Kitchener–Waterloo and Toronto, and year-round rail service between Niagara and Toronto.

New Democrats are committed to the principle of keeping transit public. That's why we will focus on public projects instead of wasteful public-private partnerships — the kind that the Auditor General found to have cost taxpayers an extra \$8 billion.

Most transit riders use local transit options. We will strengthen local transit by funding 50% of the operating cost of municipal transit services, so that people who live in cities will have the low-cost, high-quality service they need. Our commitment will mean over \$60 million per year in new provincial funding for transit and paratransit services in Windsor, London, Waterloo Region and Guelph. We respect Municipal Councils and their role in determining the optimal local transit solutions for their communities. Working with municipalities, we will deliver the needed investment

to build more rapid transit in London, and we are committed to completing the Waterloo Region's Ion on schedule.

Our regional transportation strategy will also include making highways safer. Years of privatized winter road maintenance has made our highways less safe. We will address that by

restoring public oversight and management of winter road maintenance. We will also keep drivers safe and business moving by building much needed highway barriers on the 401 between Windsor and London. And we will complete the long-planned but never delivered twinning of Highway 3.

Gas Prices

Most people in Southwestern Ontario and Niagara have to drive as a fact of life, which means gassing up. People know the price they pay at the pump can spike without warning or cause, and prices can vary widely from community to community for no reason. We will stop gouging at the pumps, so people can be confident they are paying a fair price. It will mean an end to unpredictable spikes, and lower costs in many communities.



Agriculture and food

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 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 Niagara and the southwest 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. While Doug Ford has told developers he would open the prime farmland in the Greenbelt to development, we will protect the integrity of the Greenbelt and ensure that where protections may overlap, the stronger protections will apply.



Wine

The combination of geography, skilled wine-makers, and top-tier education has led to global recognition of Ontario's wine industry. An Ontario NDP government will work collaboratively with wineries and grape growers to ensure the long-term stability of the industry, grow and protect good jobs, increase market access, and build pride in Ontario's amazing wines so that more Ontario wines are on the shelves.

Horse racing

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work with rural communities, tracks, municipalities and horse breeding families to undo the damage caused by the Liberals' reckless decision to cut the Slots-At-Racetracks Program (SARP).

Instead of recognizing the need for respect and ensuring the long-term stability of this sector, the Liberal government tried to force an 11th hour agreement on tracks mere days before an election. An NDP government will work respectfully and collaboratively to build a long-term plan that will revitalize this sector and protect the livelihood of these family farms.

International trade

BORDER CITIES LIKE Windsor, Sarnia and Niagara Falls know firsthand the importance of a strong, productive trade relationship with the United States.

Andrea Horwath will stand with Ontario workers, ensuring the priorities of working people are heard in any discussion of trade deals. And we will fight for a fair deal for job creating industries like the auto, manufacturing, steel and agricultural sectors.

We know that our health care, education system and public services are an important competitive advantage for Ontario. That's why we will invest in strengthening our existing health care and education systems, as well as creating new public services like universal pharmacare and dental care for all Ontarians.

While our public services give us an advantage, high hydro rates are a problem for Ontario businesses. New Democrats will fix this problem by bringing Hydro One back into public ownership while we lower hydro bills and keep them low — a stark contrast with the Liberal and PC borrowing plan that will increase hydro bills by 70% over the next 10 years.

Trade-exposed businesses remain concerned with lowering their carbon footprint while maintaining competitiveness, which is why our fair, accountable and transparent approach to carbon pricing will work with trade-exposed industries to help them maintain competitive costs while lowering emissions.



Sustainable environment

ONTARIANS ARE PROUD of our natural heritage and we know our well-being relies on the health of our environment. The NDP has long been a strong voice for both environmental sustainability and fairness — we were instrumental in the creation of the Niagara Escarpment Commission and responsible for creating the Environmental Bill of Rights. We believe the transition to a green, low-carbon economy must be a fair one that doesn't leave communities behind, so that all of us can realize the benefits of a clean, healthy environment.

Water

Andrea Horwath is the only leader of a major party committed to an Ontario Water Strategy that will stop putting the interests of private water-bottling companies ahead of local people, towns and farmers.

Water is a public trust, which is why an Ontario Water Strategy will prioritize planning for water needs on the public interest and sustainable public access to water. The Ontario Water Strategy will ensure that communities have the water they need for planned sustainable growth and will be based on the principle that the public should have access to water for drinking, sanitation and food. The strategy will create an inventory of water use and return across the province and will prioritize sustainable long-term water use planning. We will ensure source water protection plans are implemented so every Ontarian has access to



reliable, safe drinking water, and so we can end water advisories.

Unsafe drinking water for First Nations is not limited to Northern Ontario. Thirty minutes from Hamilton the many people living on the Six Nations of the Grand River have no access to clean drinking water.

Working together with First Nations leadership, we will ensure First Nations have access to safe, clean water, and we'll send the bill to Ottawa.

Flooding

Southwestern Ontario continues to deal with flooding that has damaged homes and infrastructure, disrupted lives and cost people thousands of dollars. New Democrats will end the loss of provincially significant wetlands — which are crucial in preventing and mitigating flooding — and begin to reverse this decline. We will work together with municipalities to identify flood vulnerabilities and take advantage of the flood mitigation benefits of living green infrastructure like wetlands and forests.

Additionally, we will support communities in need of funding from the Ontario Disaster Recovery Assistance program and explore options to ensure more Ontarians can access flooding insurance.

Air

People deserve clean air. We will set achievable but aggressive targets to reduce air and water pollution across the province. We will move ahead with studies of air pollution and its effects in Sarnia and the Aamjiwnang First Nation as well as in other communities as needed.

Startups

COMMUNITIES LIKE KITCHENER-WATERLOO have developed into global leaders in emerging technology businesses. Andrea Horwath and the NDP will help make Ontario the best place in Canada to launch an innovative startup and create good, skilled jobs.

Our drug and dental programs will help make Ontario attractive to startup founders and the talent they want to hire, giving them the ability to offer employees benefits from day one. And we know that two-way all-day Regional Express Rail (RER) is a priority for attracting new innovation-sector businesses, as well as strengthening existing businesses.

Our reforms to target small businesses in government purchasing will make the province and the broader public sector a key client and buyer of Ontario technologies and innovation. This includes streamlining procurement and making it easier for small business to engage with the province.

We will create an advisory panel on the innovation economy made up of domestic business leaders, experts and workers tasked with guiding us in expanding Ontario's innovation economy, supporting home-grown innovation leaders, bringing more publicly funded research and development to market, shrinking the skilled labour gap, and ensuring that innovation supports good jobs in regions across the province.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will develop and implement a cluster strategy focused on bringing together all actors within a strategic regional industry. Niagara and Southwestern Ontario are already doing this with clusters for the automotive industry, and advanced manufacturing. An IT cluster in Kitchener-Waterloo, medical innovation and creative digital clusters in London, an innovative chemical cluster in Sarnia, and an agribusiness and food processing cluster that stretches across the region are strengths we will build on.

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 enhancing the competitiveness of our regional industries. This includes leveraging the talents of post-secondary students and graduates by creating 27,000 new paid placements. While Liberal and Conservative governments have abandoned whole regions and economies, New Democrats will build on the strengths of regions across Ontario.

We will harness public and private sector leadership, private capital, labour expertise, regulation, 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 Niagara and Southwestern Ontario can sell and compete globally.



Education

Colleges and Universities

Niagara and the Southwest are home to some of Ontario's best universities and colleges. Not only is the innovation, research and development that comes from post-secondary institutions essential to the future of our economy, we also know that a good education is the key to a good job that can support a family.

That's why 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, while also investing in more tenure-track faculty positions. That will help ensure that students can learn from professors and educators who are there for the long term — who they can seek out to take more classes, or reach out to for letters of recommendation. And it will help Ontario attract the best academic talent the world has to offer. We'll end the financial chokehold 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 that Ontario students deserve.

Schools

In addition to our promise to address Ontario's \$16 billion 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. In 2016, Chapman's Ice Cream was so focussed on the importance of local schools for retaining a local workforce that they offered to buy Beavercrest school in Markdale to prevent the Liberal government from closing it.

Manufacturing – Auto

ANDREA HORWATH AND the NDP are committed to expanding auto and manufacturing jobs in Ontario. As the daughter of an autoworker, Andrea Horwath knows what a good manufacturing job can mean to a family.

In stark contrast to Liberal governments that stood by while major local employers like Caterpillar, Navistar, Kellogg's, the Ford St. Thomas assembly plant, and Siemens Tillsonburg closed, putting thousands of

Ontario families out of work, Andrea Horwath will stand up for jobs in the Southwest and Niagara.

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. Ontario will be the premier destination for the next generation of auto manufacturing investment.

And by championing Ontario as trade deals are renegotiated, Andrea Horwath and the NDP will stand up for workers throughout automotive and manufacturing supply chains.





**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