

Working for you. Working for Toronto.

The Ontario NDP's Toronto platform

NDP  **NPD**
ANDREA
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Dear friends,

Toronto is one of the world's greatest cities. It is vibrant, dynamic and diverse. Its residents are hardworking, caring, creative and inspiring.

The people of Toronto deserve a government at Queen's Park that is committed to working together to build on all this city has to offer, and to ensuring every citizen has the opportunity to live and prosper, as well as being respected and valued.

By working together, we can put an end to out-of-control rent costs and give people hope that they can own their own home. We can address the climate crisis and bring Ontario to net-zero emissions, transition our economy to cleaner forms of energy and create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs in the process. We can make Toronto's transit system world-class, more affordable and with the service Torontonians deserve. We can deliver affordable, accessible and quality public child care.

I am proud of our plan to help Ontario families afford the things they need most, like mental health supports, dental care and prescription drugs.

You deserve a government that puts people first. If we come together on June 2, we can defeat Doug Ford and elect a government that will fix what matters most to you and your family.

Together, we can get this done.



Andrea Horwath



MAKING LIFE AFFORDABLE

It's getting harder to pay the bills in Toronto. In addition to being a great city to live in, Toronto is incredibly expensive. Even for folks with a decent job, it's become increasingly tough to make ends meet. Doug Ford has made life less affordable. He cancelled a minimum wage increase, got rid of rent control, cut student aid and broke his promise to lower hydro rates. He's done nothing to bring down the cost of auto insurance. He keeps cutting protections for workers, and his low-wage policy undervalues health care workers, worsening our health care staffing crisis.

Housing

Rental prices across Toronto are shooting up. Home ownership has become a distant dream for many. The Ontario NDP has a comprehensive, doable plan to make housing affordable.

A few highlights of our plan:

- ➡ **Bringing back real rent control:** We'll ensure you pay what the last tenant paid, eliminating the financial incentive for landlords to squeeze out tenants to raise the rent.
- ➡ **Building affordable homes:** We have a plan to build 1.5 million homes province-wide over the next decade to ease the housing crunch, and we'll establish a new public housing agency, Housing Ontario, to finance and build 250,000 affordable and non-market homes.
- ➡ **Ending exclusionary zoning:** We'll change zoning rules to enable the construction of more affordable "missing middle" housing, like duplexes, triplexes and townhomes in existing communities where people want to live.
- ➡ **Creating a portable housing benefit:** We'll save 311,000 households an average of \$300/month on rent (\$3,600 a year), providing direct financial support.



- ➦ **Supporting Co-op and Neighbourhood Land Trusts (NLTs) to deliver housing:** We'll provide seed funding and other supports to co-ops and NLTs to provide homes you can afford.
- ➦ **Supporting condo owners:** We'll strengthen Ontario's Condominium Act, work with condo owners and communities to improve the standards of condo manager ethics and performance, tax and track pre-construction condo flipping, and set elevator availability standards, so that residents never have to worry they'll be stranded due to a broken elevator.

Auto insurance

Ontario has some of the most expensive auto insurance premiums in the country, despite some of the lowest rates of auto accidents. Liberal and Conservative governments have allowed auto insurance rates to rise unchecked. In places like Scarborough and parts of North York, drivers pay higher premiums than those with equivalent driving records elsewhere in Ontario.

Andrea Horwath and the NDP's plan for auto insurance includes:

- ➦ **Lower auto insurance rates by 40 per cent by fixing the auto industry,** saving drivers an average of \$660 every year.
- ➦ **Immediately ending postal code discrimination.** Postal code discrimination means that drivers in many neighborhoods pay dramatically higher rates than drivers anywhere else, even if they have the same age, experience, car and driving record.
- ➦ **An 18-month ban on raising insurance rates.**
- ➦ **Immediately striking the Ontario Auto Insurance Fair Pricing Commission,** led by insurance experts, affordability advocates, and experts in public auto from provinces who use a public insurance system. The commission will be directed to explore:
 - A full public no-fault insurance system like Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia have
 - Quebec's hybrid public and private model
 - A private no-fault system
 - Specific reforms in legislation leading to permanent rate reductions

Mental health, dental, and pharmacare covered by OHIP

The Ontario NDP will establish universal mental health care, pharmacare and dental care coverage, ensuring you pay for these vital services with your OHIP card, not your credit card. The Ontario NDP's plans for mental health care, dental care and pharmacare will remove economic barriers to these essential services and improve the health and well-being of Toronto residents.

Child care

Successive Liberal and Conservative governments have allowed child care fees in Ontario to skyrocket, causing families in Toronto to pay the highest fees in Canada.

Andrea Horwath and the Ontario NDP will fix this by:

- ➡ **Getting to \$10-a-day, faster:** We'll work with the federal government to speed up the implementation of \$10-a-day child care.
- ➡ **Ensuring child care spaces are available:** We'll address the staffing crisis by immediately raising wages and developing a Workforce Strategy in consultation with the sector, and we'll work with the federal government to build sufficient non-profit child care spaces.



Wages and Income

Doug Ford cancelled a minimum wage increase and froze the wages of hundreds of thousands of workers — from health care and education workers to truck drivers and cleaners— below the rate of inflation. He refused to give workers 10 paid sick days in the midst of a pandemic.

The Ontario NDP will fix this by:

- 🕒 **Establishing a \$20 minimum wage:** We'll raise the minimum wage to \$20 by 2026, with stable, predictable \$1-an-hour increases annually.
- 🕒 **Repealing Bill 124.**
- 🕒 **Giving all workers 10 paid sick days.**
- 🕒 **Creating Ontario Benefits:** We'll provide a basket of benefits to all workers, including those in part-time, casual, app-based or contract jobs, ensuring benefits follow the person, not the job.
- 🕒 **Fair treatment for temp and gig workers:** We'll prevent gig, temp and contract workers from being misclassified as independent contractors, to ensure they get wages, protections and benefits on par with other workers.
- 🕒 **Lift ODSP and OW recipients out of poverty:** Under an NDP government, ODSP and OW recipients will, for the first time in decades, be able to live above the poverty line. We will immediately increase rates and work urgently with all stakeholders to implement a new system early on in our first term that provides justice dignity and economic security to every recipient beginning with an immediate initial increase of 20% with rates doubling in the second year of our mandate. They will be indexed, so never again will anyone in Ontario live in legislated poverty. We can do this and we can do this quickly.



Reducing student debt

Young people in Toronto are struggling to stay afloat, often facing crushing student debt loads. Doug Ford made things worse by cutting more than \$500 million from the Ontario Student Assistance Program.

The Ontario NDP will fix this by:

- 🔌 **Reversing Ford's cuts to OSAP.**
- 🔌 **Converting OSAP loans into non-repayable grants**
- 🔌 **Cancelling student loan interest:** We'll wipe out existing student loan interest owed or paid to the province by any student or past student who still holds a provincial loan.



THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND PROTECTING GREEN SPACES

Torontonians are worried about the world we're leaving to future generations. Young people fear the environmental, economic and social consequences of a climate crisis they will inherit.

The Ontario NDP's Green New Democratic Deal addresses the urgency of the climate crisis while creating millions of well-paying jobs.

We'll do this by:

- 🔌 **Achieving net-zero emissions by 2050:** We'll reduce Ontario's GHG emissions by at least 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, targets consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the most ambitious aspects of the Paris Agreement.
- 🔌 **Creating an ambitious building retrofit program:** The program will have the goal of retrofitting at least five per cent of Ontario buildings per year to meet international energy efficiency standards.
- 🔌 **Expanding the Greenbelt.**



- **Expanding access to parks and green spaces across Ontario,** while increasing protection of ecosystems and biodiversity - including by supporting projects like the Humber Bay Naturalization and Recreation Plan.
- **Supporting Toronto's urban tree canopy:** We'll work with the City to protect and grow Toronto's urban tree canopy, something that's critical to building livable, climate-resilient cities.
- **Creating a Youth Climate Corps:** We'll give young Ontarians the opportunity to get hands-on skills and experience restoring and enhancing Ontario's natural landscape, while earning a fair wage, and a fee credit towards post-secondary education.
- **Creating a Provincial Food Strategy:** We'll ensure healthy, locally sourced food on your tables, support agriculture jobs in food processing, transportation, biofuels, and retail, and help young farm families and first-time farmers with mentorship, financial advice and loan guarantees.
- **Creating Ontario's first comprehensive Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs) Strategy:** We'll support the auto sector to shift its production to ZEVs, and help Ontarians make the switch to electric vehicles by building a network of charging stations and offering incentives of up to \$15,000, when combined with the federal rebate.
- **Incentives for e-bikes:** We'll offer rebates of up to \$500 for Ontarians who purchase new electric bikes, mopeds or motorcycles.



BETTER COMMUNITIES

Torontonians are proud of their neighbourhoods. The Ontario NDP will ensure those neighbourhoods are strong and dynamic.

Ontario Place

Ontario Place is an important heritage site that holds special significance for many Ontarians. It must remain publicly owned and accessible to all.

We'll achieve this by:

- ➔ Moving ahead with a revitalization of Ontario Place that acknowledges the waterfront's Indigenous heritage, maintains Ontario Place as part of Toronto's waterfront park system and preserves its cultural heritage, as well as integrating it with the revitalization of Exhibition Place.

Cannabis shops

- ➔ Toronto should be able to benefit from legalization without losing the diversity and character of its neighbourhoods.

We'll ensure this by:

- ➔ **Passing the NDP's bill to give cities more say in cannabis shop distribution:** We'll pass legislation to ensure the cannabis licensing process aligns with that of liquor licensing, avoiding situations where some Toronto neighbourhoods have none while others have too many.



SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

Toronto is a city of artists. The arts were hit hard during COVID-19. Before the pandemic, Doug Ford slashed funding to the Ontario Arts Council and eliminated the Indigenous Culture Fund. Artists and arts organizations need support to be able to live and work in Toronto, rather than being driven out of the city by unaffordability.

An Ontario NDP government has a plan to ensure Toronto arts organizations and workers have the support they need to rebound from COVID and reach their highest potential.

We'll ensure this by:

- ➔ **Creating a Provincial Arts Strategy:** We'll create a strategy that centres artists and supports arts, culture, and heritage community organizations. As part of this strategy, we'll ensure artists have access to truly affordable living, working, performing and rehearsing space.
- ➔ **Increasing festival funding:** We'll make sure festivals such as Pride Toronto, Caribana Toronto and Taste of the Danforth get the support they need to thrive.
- ➔ **Increasing funding through the Ontario Arts Council:** We'll support new and experienced Ontario artists by providing additional funding, and restoring the Indigenous Culture Fund.
- ➔ **Properly supporting arts education in our schools.**
- ➔ **Increasing funding for brick-and-mortar libraries and digital library services,** recognizing the vital role local public libraries play in our communities.



ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Access to a safe, affordable, and supportive place to live is a basic right. Decades of Liberal and Conservative underfunding of affordable housing and weak protections for tenants have left too many in Toronto homeless or precariously housed.

The Ontario NDP will fix this by:

- 🕒 **Working to end chronic homelessness within 10 years:** We'll provide safe, accessible, supportive transitional and permanent housing for Ontarians impacted by homelessness, including temporary housing like hotels, as we increase funding for permanent and transitional housing.
- 🕒 **Implementing a Housing First model:** We'll guarantee all Ontarians, regardless of income or ability, have access to safe, secure, and affordable housing to build a stable life.
- 🕒 **Building 60,000 new homes with supports for people living with mental health and addiction challenges:** Our plan will reflect the lived experiences of women, families, Black, Indigenous and racialized people, youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ folks, and newcomers experiencing homelessness.
- 🕒 **Mental health and addiction supports:** We'll declare the overdose crisis a public health emergency, and invest in addiction rehabilitation, detox centres, and harm reduction strategies. We'll lift the cap on supervised consumption services, work to ensure safer alternatives to the current deadly supply of drugs available on the street, work with the federal government to decriminalize personal drug use, and bring mental health care under OHIP.

SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



Small businesses are the heart of Toronto's neighbourhoods. The last two years have been incredibly hard on small businesses, and Doug Ford's Conservative government offered little support. The Ontario NDP has a solid plan to make sure our small and medium-sized businesses come back stronger than ever.

We'll achieve this by:

- ➔ **Introducing a Small Business Recovery Grant:** We'll ensure that small businesses receive grants to help them recover for the next two years. Unlike Doug Ford's, our program will be responsive to business owners, with payments disbursed in a timely manner.
- ➔ **Improving commercial insurance:** We will work with business organizations and the insurance industry to ensure that commercial insurance is affordable for small businesses.
- ➔ **Improving commercial rent:** We'll work with the business community to review the Commercial Tenancies Act, standardize commercial lease agreements, and explore the creation of rent guidelines for small businesses.
- ➔ **Committing to a Buy Ontario plan:** We'll engage in strategic government procurement from small and medium-sized businesses and non-profits to ensure they can compete with big industry. This will include using government advertising dollars to support small independent media organizations.
- ➔ **Requiring community benefit agreements:** We'll require that future contracts for major infrastructure projects contain provisions for mitigating the impact of construction on small businesses, and create local jobs and apprenticeship opportunities. For example, in neighbourhoods like Little Jamaica, where businesses have been doubly impacted by the Eglinton LRT construction and COVID-19.
- ➔ **Supporting Toronto's unique neighbourhoods:** We'll work with the City to help ensure the success and preserve the character of Toronto's many unique neighbourhoods, such as Little Jamaica, Little India and the Village.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Torontonians deserve strong public services—like health care and education—that are there when you need them.

Health care

Doug Ford was cutting health care before COVID. Steven Del Duca and the Liberals froze hospital budgets, fired 1,600 nurses and left us with hallway medicine. The Ontario NDP platform contains a comprehensive plan to fix health care in Ontario.

Here are a few highlights of how our plan will help people in Toronto:

- **Increase funding for Ontario's Community Health Centres (CHCs):** We'll expand CHCs across the province, including by building two additional ones in Scarborough.
- **Strengthen local hospitals:** We'll redevelop the Scarborough Health Network's Centenary and Birchmount hospital sites and ensure Scarborough General's project timelines are met. We'll also redevelop key hospitals including SickKids, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, St. Joseph's Health Centre and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.



Education

Children and youth suffered academic, emotional and mental health setbacks during the pandemic. Years of Liberal and Conservative funding freezes and cuts have left our schools overcrowded, understaffed, and in poor shape, with a multi-billion-dollar repair backlog. The Ontario NDP platform includes a plan to fix our Education system.

Here are a few highlights of how our plan will help people in Toronto:

- ➦ **Reducing class sizes:** We'll cap classes for Grades 4 through 8 and reduce high school class sizes.
- ➦ **More caring adults in the classroom:** We'll hire 20,000 teachers and education workers, additional mental health and child and youth workers and invest in in-school remedial learning programs.
- ➦ **Clearing the school repair backlog:** We'll immediately address the backlog, with a plan to clear it within 10 years.
- ➦ **Fairness in Education Development Charges (EDCs):** We'll fix the rules around education development charges so that all school boards, including the TDSB, can collect EDCs and have the flexibility to use them to build and repair schools.
- ➦ **Building new schools:** We'll work with school boards to build new schools in growing communities. For example, in Liberty Village, East Waterfront and West Don Lands.



Transit

Torontonians have faced years of TTC fare hikes, long construction delays and unreliable service. Liberal and Conservative cuts and privatization have made it harder to get around. Doug Ford has burned through billions of dollars rewriting plans for existing transit projects.

The Ontario NDP will fix this by:

🕒 **Making the TTC more frequent, reliable, comfortable, convenient and affordable** by restoring 50% provincial funding for municipal transit operations. This dedicated, predictable and permanent funding will enable the TTC to boost ridership and deliver the best transit service in North America. These service improvements include:

- **Implementing a 10-minutes-or-better service guarantee:** We will work with the TTC and other municipal transit agencies to make sure that wherever you are, whenever you want to go, the next bus is just minutes away, with a ten-minutes-or-better service standard on core routes across every major transit system in Ontario.
- **More buses, less crowding:** On busy routes, we'll work with the TTC to make sure more buses are running, so they are less crowded.
- **Protect the integrity of the TTC network:** The TTC provides a world-beating integrated transit network that allows riders to move seamlessly from bus to subway to streetcar throughout Toronto on a single fare. We'll protect and strengthen the integrity of the TTC network, and stop proposals that would fragment transit service within Toronto.



- **Travel from anywhere to anywhere on one low fare:** We'll give riders two hours of unlimited travel across all municipal transit services in the GTHA on a single low flat-rate fare. GO riders will be able to transfer to the TTC at no extra cost, and TTC riders will be able to use the GO rail system within Toronto at no extra cost.
- **Expanding discounted fares for low-income people:** We will work with Toronto to expand the Fair Pass discounted fare program to low-income workers so that everyone who needs transit can access it.
- **Wifi service on the subway:** an Ontario NDP government will work with the TTC and telecom providers to ensure reliable cellular and wifi internet service on the subway.
- **Comfortable and connected:** Work with the TTC and all GTHA transit agencies to seriously improve and integrate wayfinding, real-time customer information and comfort at transit stops.
- ⌚ **Cleaner Trains:** We'll accelerate the electrification of the GO and Union Pearson (UP) Express, and replace diesel trains with clean, fast and quiet electric trains.
- ⌚ **Supporting Scarborough's transit needs:** We'll get the Scarborough Line 2 Subway Extension built, and work with the TTC to explore a busway along the decommissioned Scarborough RT corridor until the subway is built.
- ⌚ **Complete Toronto's priority rapid transit projects,** including the Eglinton Crosstown LRT, the Finch West LRT, the Ontario Line subway, the Scarborough subway extension, the Eglinton West LRT extension, the Durham-Scarborough BRT and the Yonge subway extension.
- ⌚ **Support rapid transit expansion:** We'll ensure that long-planned priority projects like the Waterfront LRT, Eglinton East LRT extension to Malvern, and Sheppard East rapid transit to Malvern get built for Torontonians. We'll also explore extending the Finch West LRT and the Eglinton West LRT to Pearson Airport. And working with Toronto and the TTC, we will get bus rapid transit built across the city by accelerating Toronto's RapidTO initiatives, including bus lanes, signal priority and queue jump lanes.
- ⌚ **Implementing a Vulnerable Road Users Act:** We'll legislate tougher penalties for drivers who injure or kill a pedestrian, road worker or cyclist.
- ⌚ **Invest in a Complete Streets Infrastructure Fund:** We'll work with the City and provide funding to help Toronto build complete streets and enable more active transportation.
- ⌚ **Toronto cycling strategy:** We'll help the City of Toronto expand its cycling network and make it safer, towards a goal of increasing the percentage of trips by bike.

STRONGER DEMOCRACY

Torontonians deserve a government that has their backs. People in Toronto feel let down by years of the Liberal and Conservatives' lack of transparency and consultation.

The Ontario NDP will fix this by:

- 🕒 **Repealing Bill 5:** We'll reverse one of Ford's first acts in office, which overruled municipal interests and slashed the size of Toronto's city council.
- 🕒 **Exploring ways to strengthen municipal decision-making:** This will include exploring the use of city charters.
- 🕒 **Implementing electoral reform:** We'll create a Mixed Member Proportional Voting system designed by an independent group of citizens, ensuring every voter has a voice in the legislature.
- 🕒 **Making Metrolinx transparent and accountable to the public:** We'll make sure Metrolinx proactively shares its progress and decision-making, including contracts, financing, and consultant studies. Board meetings will be made open to the public. And we'll give local municipal officials, transit operators and planners seats on Metrolinx's board.



SUPPORTING NEW CANADIANS

Toronto is a city of people from all over the world. An Ontario NDP government will make sure new Canadians have every support to live their best life here in our city.

We'll achieve this by:

- 🕒 **Accelerating recognition of internationally educated professionals, with a focus on health care:** We'll immediately pass NDP MPP Doly Begum's Fairness for Ontario's Internationally Trained Workers Act, which addresses accreditation barriers for internationally trained professionals. We'll expedite nursing credentials of 15,000 internationally trained nurses and create a job-matching program to guarantee internationally trained physicians get local experience.
- 🕒 **Improving language access:** We'll consult affected communities to create and implement a language access strategy, promote awareness of existing language service options and proclaim February 22 a Day of Language Access.
- 🕒 **Expanding family reunification and the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program:** To attract more skilled immigrants to Ontario.
- 🕒 **Guaranteeing access to culturally appropriate long-term care, home care and mental health supports:** The Ontario NDP's plan to transform long-term and home care will ensure elders and seniors have access to care and practices that reflect their distinct cultures and languages. We'll improve access to culturally responsive health care, mental health and addictions support.
- 🕒 **Improving ESL learning in schools:** We will provide dedicated increases to funding for English as a Second Language classes to help newcomers.



SUPPORTING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES AND FIGHTING HATE

Toronto's strength lies in its diversity. An Ontario NDP government will make investments to dismantle structural racism and push back against the rising tide of hate.

We'll achieve this by:

- ⑤ **Supporting businesses owned by equity deserving communities:** Using a social procurement policy to support diverse vendors.
- ⑤ **Launching a 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion Action Plan:** In consultation with these communities, we'll ensure government services like health care, education, and long-term care are inclusive of and welcoming to 2SLGBTQIA+ Ontarians.
- ⑤ **Providing housing and services for queer and trans youth and adults:** We'll increase shelter spaces, provide housing units, and fund wraparound services for queer, trans and gender diverse youth in need.
- ⑤ **Ensuring schools embrace 2SLGBTQIA+ students and families:** We'll build on the important work being done in school boards to provide inclusive and affirming spaces for all students, including ensuring that Gay Straight Alliances are supported.
- ⑤ **Implementing a provincial anti-racism strategy:** This will be informed by race-based data collection across provincial ministries.
- ⑤ **Appointing a minister responsible for anti-racism:** We'll also reverse Ford's cuts to the Anti-Racism Directorate, funding it to become a full secretariat.
- ⑤ **Implementing an anti-racism strategy in schools and post-secondary education:** In order to address anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and all forms of systemic racism, so that all children and students feel welcome and safe.
- ⑤ **Passing the *Our London Family Act*:** We'll pass NDP legislation co-created with the National Council of Canadian Muslims to enshrine in law concrete calls to action made during the NCCM's National Summit on Islamophobia.
- ⑤ **Pushing back against the rising tide of anti-Asian racism:** We will ensure dedicated funding and education programs.
- ⑤ **Launching a Black Business Recovery Fund:** We'll provide \$20 million for Black-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs to help overcome systemic barriers to accessing capital, and to ensure they recover from the pandemic.