



Income Security - Raising the incomes of the poorest Ontarians

What will your party do to increase the incomes of people who rely on Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)?

An Ontario Liberal government will increase Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates by 10% on July 1, 2022 and further increase ODSP rates by another 10% on July 1, 2023. In addition, we will ensure that individuals receiving social assistance can keep more of their earnings by increasing the amount of income that they can earn without impacting their assistance from \$2,400 (calculated monthly) to \$6,000 per year that would be calculated on a yearly basis. We will also replace the current complex rate structure with an inflation protected flat rate that treats everyone equally. And we will redefine “spouse” to give new couples receiving social assistance more support.

In addition, an Ontario Liberal Government will introduce a number of affordability measures that will benefit all Ontarians, including individuals on social assistance. This includes:

- Buck-a-ride, province-wide that will reduce all fares on public transit to \$1 per ride, or \$40 per monthly pass, until 2024. This includes all municipal transit, GO Transit and Ontario Northland and includes “Wheel-Trans” and other similar specialized municipal transit operations;
- Removing the provincial 8% HST on all prepared foods and meals under \$20.00

Finally, an Ontario Liberal Government is committed to instituting a Basic Income Demonstration project that will build on the Basic Income Pilot that was abruptly cancelled by Doug Ford. We intend to quickly assess the results of this demonstration project as well as the results of the cancelled pilot program to consultatively develop a plan to move forward on basic income.

We would also work with the Federal Government on their Canada Disability Benefit to ensure that it seamlessly complements any Ontario government programs.

Will you index social assistance rates to the cost of living?

An Ontario Liberal government will index social assistance rates to the annual cost of living to protect against inflation.

What will you do to assure that everyone in Ontario has enough income to live above the poverty line?

An Ontario Liberal Government is committed to instituting a Basic Income Demonstration project that will build on the Basic Income Pilot that was abruptly cancelled by Doug Ford. We intend to quickly assess the results of this demonstration project as well as the results of the cancelled pilot program to consultatively develop a plan to move forward on basic income.

In addition, we propose to increase the minimum wage to \$16 per hour as of January 1, 2023. This is an interim step to the development of a regional living wage structure that would



provide wages that people can live on in different parts of our diverse province. This new approach to a living wage will be developed consultatively.

An Ontario Liberal Government will also develop a portable package of high-quality, affordable benefits for all that would provide health, including mental health benefits.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness

What will your party do to substantially reduce the number of Ontario households experiencing core housing need?

As part of our plan to build 1.5 million new homes across Ontario over the next 10 years, an Ontario Liberal government will build 138,000 deeply affordable homes. This includes:

- Building 78,000 new social and community homes through a net investment of \$10 billion over 10 years
- Building 38,000 supportive and assisted living units by investing a net \$5 billion over 10 years; and
- Building 22,000 new off-reserve homes for Indigenous peoples over 10 years by investing a net \$3.6 billion.

In addition we will provide a net \$1 billion over 10 years to preserve and repair the existing stock of 260,000 social and community housing units.

An Ontario Liberal government would provide municipal and non-profit partners with \$360 million annually to operate and improve social, supportive and community services. This funding will increase as the new supportive and assisted housing units are built.

Unlike the four different housing plans published by the Ford government, the OLP housing plan includes a specific focus on dealing with core housing needs and eliminating the waitlist for affordable housing.

How will your party help keep rental housing affordable for low-income tenants?

An Ontario Liberal government will bring back real rent control and will eliminate the Ford government arbitrary rent control exemption. This will end the existing two-tiered rental market. We'll also reduce delays in landlord-tenant dispute resolutions – including ensuring homes are kept in a state of good repair and enforce larger fines for persistently negligent landlords.

In addition, we will build 138,000 deeply affordable homes over the next 10 years to increase the supply of rental units across the province. Finally, additions to existing rental buildings can be a cost-effective way to create new homes, so we'll make it easier to do so by providing as-of-right zoning status at sites where there is already purpose-built rental housing.

How will your party address the housing needs of urban and rural indigenous people?



The Ontario Liberal Party recognizes that housing is part of reconciliation with Indigenous people. As such, we are committed to work collaboratively with Indigenous housing providers and communities to build 22,000 new homes for off-reserve Indigenous people over the next 10 years right across Ontario. This distinct housing strategy for Indigenous peoples will be developed for and by Indigenous people. This will be a net investment of \$3.6B over 10 years to build the 22,000 units as well as providing annual funding to support the on-going operating requirements.

What new measures would you implement to end chronic homelessness?

An Ontario Liberal government will work to establish housing as a fundamental human right. We will work to provide people with safe and reliable shelter, as well as wrap around services that are needed to support individuals to live with dignity and stability.

We will provide municipalities and housing support providers with \$100 million per year to promote a “housing first” approach to end chronic homelessness that would quickly move people into independent, permanent housing with comprehensive supports.

We will also fund emergency shelter beds and drastically improve the condition of existing shelters so that they are a safe and respectable option for those who may need them.

We will also relaunch the homelessness census that Doug Ford cut so that we can better understand people’s comprehensive housing needs and issues.

Justice for Workers

What will your party do to move the minimum wage towards a living wage for Ontario?

An Ontario Liberal Government, as a first step towards a living wage, would increase the minimum wage to \$16 per hour as of January 1, 2023.

This is an interim step to the development of a regional living wage structure that would provide wages that people can live on in different parts of our diverse province. This new approach to a living wage will be developed consultatively.

What will your party do to ensure all workers in Ontario have access to paid sick days?

As we navigate our way out of the pandemic, an Ontario Liberal government will provide 10 paid, job-protected sick days for all workers. These paid sick days can be used for getting tested, vaccinated, isolating or providing care to others. The days can also be used for major life events that require stepping back from work, like a death in the family or pregnancy loss. We’ll also reintroduce a ban on employers making their workers produce a sick note in order to access the leave they need.



What will your party do to ensure pay equity for workers, regardless of gender, racialization, immigration status or status as part-time, agency, app, contract or temporary workers?

An Ontario Liberal government would ban unfair and underpaid gig and contract work.

People who work for app-based platforms do the work of employees, but aren't classified that way under the law. Gig work is work. We will modernize the definition of "employee" to include those in the gig economy so they get better access to benefits and protections, like sick days, workplace insurance, holiday and severance pay and more. We'll do this in a way that ensures workers can maintain the flexibility and independence many enjoy.

When they took office, the Ford Conservatives scrapped basic, common-sense worker protections. We'll bring back these protections, including one that ensures everyone is paid equally and fairly for the work they do regardless of gender or employment status – including part-time, casual and temporary workers. We'll also bring back rules that give workers a minimum of three hours' pay for being on-call when they are not called in or work less than three hours.

We'll also require companies that have production or 'piece rate' quotas, such as parcel delivery services, to disclose these quotas to employees and we'll help ensure these quotas don't push people too hard and violate occupational health or safety standards. We will also implement the Pay Transparency Act that the Ford Conservatives put on indefinite hold – requiring job postings to include compensation ranges, prohibiting employers from asking about compensation history and requiring larger employers to publish pay gaps by gender. We'll also repeal the sections of Bill 106 that gutted the Pay Equity Act and reintroduce the repealed Employment Equity Act which ensures everyone receives equal job opportunities and are treated fairly by their employers, including opportunities for promotions and professional development.

How will your party ensure all workers are able to assert their rights as workers?

An Ontario Liberal Government will make it easier to organize and join a private sector union through amendments to the Employment Standards Act and Ontario Labour Relations Act. We will increase the capacity of the OLRB and also increase the number of inspectors through an annual investment of \$15 million.

Long Term Care

Before answering your questions on Long-Term Care, we want to stress that the Ontario Liberal Party has called for an Elder Care revolution. Over 95% of seniors want to age at home. That is why an Ontario Liberal Government will invest in home care and supporting 400,000 more seniors to get home care.

We'll guarantee that any senior who needs care in their own home gets it by increasing the annual budget for home and community care by over \$2 billion through 10% annual increases with a focus on front-line non-profit care, resulting in 400,000 more seniors able to get not-for-profit home care by 2026.



We'll also fund 15,000 new assisted living homes – including small, accessible and community-based residential services – as well as “hub and spoke” care that provides a comprehensive continuum of care.

An Ontario Liberal Government will end for-profit long-term care as quickly as possible with a target of 2028. We will place audits, inspections and zero-tolerance sanctions on long-term care homes that endanger residents or misdirect fund and we will repeal rules that protect long-term care companies from legal liability

We'll also improve conditions for seniors in long-term care homes, enhancing inspections to enforce – with zero-tolerance sanctions – when homes endanger residents or don't meet new standards. We'll verify through audits that government funding for long-term care homes is being spent on resident care and services and not going into the pockets of corporate directors and shareholders. We'll prevent homes from admitting new residents when they're not appropriately staffed and repeal the Ford Conservatives' rules that protect long-term care companies from legal liability for harming residents. We'll also increase training, awareness and enforcement mechanisms to eliminate elder abuse in long-term care and beyond

We will create not-for-profit long-term care homes that feel like homes and build and redevelop 58,000 new non-profit long-term care spaces as well as ensure seniors in long-term care homes receive at least four hours of direct care every day.

To make sure closing for-profit homes doesn't lead to longer wait times for seniors, we'll build 30,000 new long-term care spaces by 2028 and redevelop 28,000 existing spaces to modern standards. We'll do this by providing capital, operating and governance support to non-profit groups that want to build long-term care homes, with an emphasis on building smaller homes that reflect their communities, rather than institutional warehouses. We'll give funds to non-profit long-term care homes to provide at least an average of four hours of direct care per day, as well as provide pharmacy services, high-speed wi-fi, air conditioning and other standards of excellent care.

How will your party ensure that each resident gets a minimum of four hours of care per day from their hands-on PSWs, and nurses? When will you have this in place for each and every home?

An Ontario Liberal Government will work with all stakeholders to ensure that the minimum four hours a day of care is provided. We must first stabilize the sector by repealing Bill 124 that artificially kept wage/benefit increases in not-for-profit homes at 1%. This will help retain and attract new health care workers into LTC which is required to meet the 4 hour per day commitment. We will also implement a target of 70% full-time staff in LTC facilities.

How will your party ensure that there is transparency in long-term care oversight so that there is accountability for public dollars spent in for-profit as well as not-for-profit long-term care homes?

We will end for-profit long-term care in Ontario with a target of 2028. In the meantime, we will enhance inspections to enforce – with zero-tolerance sanctions – when homes endanger residents or don't meet new standards. We'll verify through audits that government funding for long-term care homes is being spent on resident care and services and not going into the



pockets of corporate directors and shareholders. We'll prevent homes from admitting new residents when they're not appropriately staffed and repeal the Ford Conservatives' rules that protect long-term care companies from legal liability for harming residents. We'll also increase training, awareness and enforcement mechanisms to eliminate elder abuse in long-term care and beyond.

How will your party ensure that licensing of long-term care homes is tied to the quality of care service?

An Ontario Liberal Government will ensure that contracts with LTC service providers include stringent and public quality of care standards that would be publicly disclosed on a regular basis. Escalating penalties would be built into these contracts for any provider not meeting the standards, up to and including losing their licence.

How will your party ensure that standards of care are strictly enforced in each and every long-term care home? What kind of inspection will you provide? Will you reinstate comprehensive inspections canceled by the present government?

Yes, an Ontario Liberal Government will bring back comprehensive inspections that were all but abandoned by the Ford Government to disastrous effect. We will enhance inspections to enforce – with zero-tolerance sanctions – when homes endanger residents or don't meet new standards.

How will your party provide proper staffing through recruitment, training, payment and retention of Long Term Care employees?

Covid has underscored the fragility of our healthcare system especially in LTC. We will repeal Bill 124 that artificially kept wage/benefit increases in not-for-profit homes at 1% and repeal sections of Bill 106 that gutted the Pay Equity Act. This will help retain and attract new health care workers into LTC as will implementing a target of 70% full-time staff in LTC facilities.

We will raise PSW base pay to at least \$25/hour and close the gaps and increase wages for health workers across home and community care, long-term care and hospitals.

Will you require each home to report at least quarterly on the actual hours of front-line care received by residents as well as on the hours devoted to housekeeping and laundry services which are crucial for minimizing the spreading of infections?

As part of a new transparency and accountability framework, an Ontario Liberal Government will work with key stakeholders to develop a public report card that would provide residents, their families and caregivers with a complete picture of the long-term care facility.