

MAKE ONTARIO THE GATEWAY TO CANADIAN GREATNESS

- Not the Backyard of America -

Beat the Wall St. Depression and Unemployment!

DRAFT ONTARIO PLATFORM OF THE LABOR-PROGRESSIVE PARTY.

The Labor-Progressive Party declares that the growing economic crisis, imposed on Ontario and Canada by American domination, can be averted and prevented. Our platform can save Ontario from mass unemployment and ruined farms. It is a platform that Puts Canada First.

1. Jobs Through Peaceful Trade

Ontario should use her great influence in Canada's commerce to help overcome the U.S. stranglehold on our trade with the British Commonwealth and should send trade delegations to Europe and Asia, including the Soviet Union and China, to find new markets for our agricultural and industrial products. United States dumping must be stopped. We should export food, not guns!

2. Act Now for an All-Canadian Seaway.

Ontario must insist that this great nation-building project start at once, providing 15,000 jobs for five years and giving our province great new horizons of expansion.

3. Public Ownership of Alberta Natural Gas Distribution in Ontario

A commission, similar to Hydro, should be set up for this purpose, to provide service at cost and eliminate U.S. profiteering on this great Canadian project. Ontario should demand action at once on the pipeline and should use it, together with the Seaway, for a great expansion in the North, in Eastern Ontario and other areas needing assistance in their development. Ontario should see to it that the pipe for this project is produced in Ontario.

4. Open the Northland, New Horizons for Ontario

Reactionary ideas of Ontario's Northland as a wilderness for "grab-and-run" American exploitation must be replaced by the vision of a great new industrial and agricultural area with modern, populous cities and towns. Ontario should clear arable lands in clay belt and subsidize settlement, build storage facilities, schools, hospitals, extend natural gas through the North and ensure modern living conditions and services.

5. End American Plundering of Our Resources

American devastation of our timber, which will deplete it in 20 years, must be replaced by public control under a Forestry Commission to ensure reforestation and guarantee perpetual tree harvests, build stable towns in the forest areas, open new forest industries and secure new revenues for people's needs. American mining corporations, like International Nickel, should pay their share of municipal costs and provide, out of their huge profits, a special fund for northern development.

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6. Process Ontario's Iron Ore at home -
Build the Steel Industry

Government action should ensure the building, at the Lakehead, and in the industrial centres, of new primary steel plants to supply Canadian needs. A Canadian machine and tool industry should be encouraged.

7. Build 25,000 Low-rent Homes Annually in Ontario

Ontario should open, for the first time, the way to decent housing for average Ontario workers by government subsidized low-rent housing in co-operation with the municipalities and using the federal agreement to pay 75% of the cost of such projects.

8. A Moratorium on Mortgage Payments for
Unemployed Home Owners.

No Ontario home owner should lose his home through unemployment. Administration of the moratorium should provide free advice and assistance to home owners.

9. End Oppressive Municipal Taxation

Ontario should have done with the age-long Tory policy of over-riding our 967 municipalities and saddling them with unfair costs without corresponding revenues. A new era of far-reaching municipal expansion and improvement is now demanded, establishing, for the first time, full municipal democracy with the abolition of property voting restrictions. Ontario should assume 90% of education costs, the costs of hospitalization, justice and public welfare. A share of gasoline taxes should be rebated to municipalities. They should be taken into the Tax Rental Agreement with the Government of Canada to share in corporation income taxes.

10. \$20 Per Month Increase in Old Age Pensions Now!

Ontario should declare that senior citizens, after a lifetime of labor, will not be left to starve on the present low pension. Mothers' allowances and blind pensions should be increased. Free medical, optical and dental care should be provided for pensioners.

11. Save Ontario Agriculture by Parity Prices
and Curbing the Power of Monopolies

Ontario should not allow U.S. monopolies to buy below value from our farmers and well above value to the consumer. Profiteering price spreads should be investigated and prohibited. Our growers of fruit, tobacco, tomatoes, as well as dairy and other farmers must have the fullest support of Ontario in controlling the marketing of their products and in buying machinery, fertilizer and other farm needs. Low-interest loans should be available to farmers, and people taking up farming should be given generous subsidies.

12. Enact Ontario Health Insurance

Opening the door for a national health plan, Ontario should recognize the right of every family to assistance in meeting the crisis of sickness or accident. Ontario should also provide

automobile accident insurance at cost in place of the present poor scheme under the Unsatisfied Judgement Fund. Ontario should provide free treatment for cancer, polio, tuberculosis, venereal diseases. A planned, province-wide scheme of modern hospital construction should be launched by the government.

13. Legislation for a Shorter Workday Without
Reduced Pay

Ontario should reduce the legal working week from 48 to 40 hours without any reduction in take-home pay, and should oppose the wage-cutting drive of employers which can only deepen the growing crisis. Annual vacations should, by law, be extended to two weeks and all workers should have eight statutory holidays. The minimum wage should be raised substantially.

14. Subsidized Trades Training for Young
Workers and Student Scholarships

Ontario should give living allowances to young workers desiring trades training and should provide scholarships for students who wish to continue their education rather than swell the ranks of the unemployed. We must have done with the snobbish idea of education as something for the rich. Give opportunity to our youth and keep them in Canada!

15. Bring Canadianism into our Schools, throw out
American Textbooks and ban American gangster,
crime and war comics.

Ontario's Department of Education should meet the education crisis by throwing off American influence and, for the first time, insist on bringing Canadian patriotism into our schools, banning American textbooks and harmful "comics". The critical shortage of schools and teachers demands a province-wide school-building program with libraries, gyms and other facilities and higher wages for teachers. Overcrowded classrooms must be eliminated.

16. Enact a Labor Code Guaranteeing Union Security

The present labor code should be re-written as demanded by organized labor to enforce collective bargaining, provide for union security and to close the loopholes and red tape of the present code. Municipal employees, civil servants and all workers must have full rights in collective bargaining.

17. Promote Canadianism in the Arts and Social Life
by Building Theatres, Community Centres, Sports
Stadiums.

Ontario should become a bulwark against Americanization by a program of building Canadian national consciousness and developing our own Canadian national psychology, based on democratic and national equality. By a new program of assisting municipalities to build theatres, community centres and recreation facilities Ontario can do much to build Canadian nationhood. Ontario should establish a Department of Canadian Culture. We should build a new university in the Northland.

18. End Racial Discrimination in Ontario
and Defend Civil Rights

Ontario should put teeth in its laws against racial discrimination and anti-semitism. We should enact a Bill of Rights to uphold freedom of speech, assembly, association and worship. Democracy in Ontario must be defended against Tory reaction which, under George D. Brown, seeks to bring McCarthyism into Canada. Ontario's parliament should be safeguarded against government by Order-in-Council. Representation in it should be placed on a democratic basis by giving representation to working class districts according to population. The voting age should be reduced to 18.

19. Put Teeth in the "Equal Pay" Law for Women Workers

Ontario working women should be protected against widespread discrimination by a completely rewritten "Equal Pay for Equal Work" law. The rights of women must be upheld by Ontario law.

20. No More Soup Kitchens and Flop Houses in Ontario!

Ontario must be rid of the disgrace of forcing unemployed workers into flop houses and soup kitchens. Until the federal government is prepared to assume responsibility, Ontario must provide full cash maintenance for all workers whose unemployment insurance benefits have expired or who are not eligible for them.

21. Grant Equal Rights and Full Opportunity
to the Indian People

Ontario should recognize the Indian people as a national minority who have been oppressed and wronged for many generations. Equal rights must be given the Indian people in voting. Above all, they must have the right to decide their own future. They must be given adequate land with generous grants to modernize their communities.

22. Abolish Graft and Patronage;
Make Taxation Fair and Just!

Aware of the widespread patronage in the provincial administration, the favoritism in contracts, the maladministration and now the graft, Ontario should clean house at Queen's Park, force an investigation of the billion being spent on Hydro conversion. Ontario's Tax Rental Agreement with the federal government should be reopened with a view to having the rich and big corporations start to pay their fair share of taxation and reducing the unfair burden on those least able to pay.

23. Ban the A and H Bombs. Call for a Conference
of the Great Powers to Preserve World Peace
and Expand World Trade

Ontario's voice should be raised against the inhuman outrage of H Bomb tests, endangering millions of our people. Ontario should speak up against the insane minority of rich men who want war and who profit from war. Ontario's future as the Gateway to Canada's greatness can be realised only in peace and friendship with all peoples.