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**THE LIBERAL PARTY
IN ONTARIO**

**ITS AIMS
AND
ITS POLICIES**

NOVEMBER, 1950

Recommended by the
**CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON POLICY**

Endorsed by the
**COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
ONTARIO LIBERAL ASSOCIATION**



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PREAMBLE

Our Liberal democracy is being attacked abroad and at home. Our surest defence against these attacks is to preserve and strengthen our democratic institutions so that they will hold the faith and loyalty of the people.

The provincial and local governments of Canada are responsible for a vital part of the defences of democracy. These include our historic liberties and civil rights; our system of education; the administration of justice; the care of the poor and the needy; the protection of health, municipal and local institutions, and protection for all against privilege and power. Without progressive policies in these fields to ensure a healthy economic and social life, we cannot be defended by budgets or soldiers or weapons or powerful friends.

But in these things Ontario, once a leader, is now sadly backward. It has fallen far behind other provinces in the vigour and the quality of legislation and administration. The government is not what it should be. We need a reform government resolved to bring to all the people of Ontario the blessings of modern Liberal democracy.

The Liberal government in Ontario will be the servant of the majority of the people and not the instrument of minority interests. The majority of the people are neither rich nor privileged. Their great power is the political power of the ballot.

This power must be represented only by a government devoted to the welfare of the people, which will not betray them to any group or selfish interest.

What the Liberal party proposes immediately to do is set forth in the pages following. The problem of our provincial government today is both to increase our general prosperity and at the same time to protect the people of the province against the injustice, unfairness and insecurity which are threatening many citizens and young people today. That is the problem the Liberal party is attacking by these specific proposals. That is the problem that it will continue to attack.

We will support economic policies to advance the prosperity of legitimate business, of farmers, and of wage earners. We will take the part of the poor and the weak. We will make it possible for all Ontario children to enjoy the best nurture and training that children can have. We will provide equal opportunity. We will protect and help the handicapped, the widowed and the fatherless. We will see that the sick and the homeless are cared for. We will cherish our land and country life. We will enrich our urban life. We will maintain justice and peace in our communities. We will encourage by every means in our power free and democratic local government.

If the democratic system, which has created the Ontario of today, is to survive, the government must be conducted with the active support of the bulk of our citizens for the Liberal principles and policies which have no other object than the welfare of all the people of Ontario.

The Liberal Party will:—

1. Institute a fiscal policy to meet the needs of the citizens of this Province designed to encourage and ensure a prosperous and thrifty people as well as to guarantee them adequate social security. Such a policy is one of the major aims and objects of the Liberal party in Ontario.
2. Negotiate immediately with the federal government a fiscal agreement similar to that now enjoyed by 8 out of 10 provinces and which will result in substantially increased revenue for the province.
3. Ensure that revenues derived from taxation will be obtained equitably and in accordance with ability to pay.
4. Ensure that the profits of the Liquor Control Board after provision for adequate reserves, be transferred monthly to the Consolidated Revenue Fund to reduce the amount required to be raised by taxation.
5. Pledge itself to exercise the utmost economy in controllable government administration expenditures consistent with a sound but liberal expansion in such services as welfare, health and education.
6. Include in expenditures classed in the estimates as statutory, only those items the fixed amounts of which are contained in the statutes.
7. Respect and maintain the principle that the control of financial matters is vested in the Legislative Assembly and not in the Cabinet.

EDUCATION

The Liberal Party deplors the failure of the Frost government to make public the report of the Royal Commission on Education and their action in making drastic changes in the educational system before presenting the Commission's report.

The Liberal Party will:—

1. Bring before the next session of the Legislature the report of the Royal Commission on Education and give thorough consideration to the implementation of the recommendations therein contained.
2. Provide a full-time Minister of Education.
3. Give substantially greater financial assistance to urban and rural school boards in order to relieve the present heavy burden on real estate.
4. Restore more autonomy in the management of the schools to the local school boards.
5. Provide for fair representation by wards or otherwise of all portions of an area whose education comes under an area school board.
6. Appoint an impartial commission to distribute university grants by means of the following steps:
 - (a) Appointment of an impartial commission (similar to the British Universities Grants Commission) which would distribute grants on an equitable and adequate basis to the Universities of the Province, thus removing provincial support of the Universities from the area of political decision, which would advise the government on appropriate policies for higher education, and which would assist in the administration of the policies.
 - (b) Development of additional Universities necessary to meet the growing demand for higher education, of

junior colleges, and of higher technical institutes, these to be located in such parts of the Province as Northern Ontario, in order to bring the opportunities for higher education as close as possible to the homes of the students.

- (c) Establishment of a broad and generous system of bursaries and scholarships for gifted and worthy students, so as to spread opportunity for higher education among those who will profit most from it, irrespective of their parents' financial position.
 - (d) Co-operation with the Dominion Government and the various professions and learned societies with the objective of improving and extending provisions for the training of much needed professional personnel, such as doctors, engineers, teachers and nurses and forwarding scientific research within the Universities.
7. Pursue a policy of co-operation with the other provinces, with the aim of achieving more uniform educational and teaching standards throughout Canada.
 8. Assure that, for the improvement of national and international relations, as many school children as possible be taught to speak both English and French and that English and French be made requirements for Senior Matriculation.
 9. Provide more adequate facilities for educational and vocational guidance.
 10. Equalize opportunity for vocational education at the secondary school level.
 11. Take vigorous steps to recruit and train teachers and remunerate them properly in order to develop an adequate supply of competent teachers for both urban and rural areas.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The Liberal Party will offer a new lease of life to municipal government by dealing promptly with the many outstanding municipal problems, which call for drastic revision of out-dated legislation and inadequate governmental policies regarding local government. The aims of Liberal policy will be to ensure adequate finances for local government without an unfair burden of taxation on real estate, constructive co-operation between the Province and the municipalities in meeting the needs of the people, local autonomy with respect to genuinely local affairs, efficiency and economy in local government, and the strengthening of democratic institutions through broad citizen participation in local affairs.

The programme will include the following points to be implemented through new legislation or administrative action:

1. Organization of a fundamental inquiry into the complex problems of provincial-municipal relations and local government, to be carried out by a highly qualified commission or committee with municipal representation on it, which will be asked to submit its report and recommendations **within one year from the date of appointment**. This body will study and report upon such questions as metropolitan government or amalgamation for Toronto and other expanding urban districts, fewer and larger municipal units in rural districts, the place of counties in local government, the appropriate distribution of operating functions between the Province and its municipalities, provincial grants-in-aid and control of municipal financial affairs, and citizen participation in local government.
2. Calling a Provincial-municipal conference promptly after receipt of the report of the fundamental inquiry, to consider ways and means of putting into effect, cooperatively and by agreement, the findings of the inquiry and thus to resolve the conflict and bad feeling which has been so common in provincial-municipal relations.

3. Appointment by the Legislature of a select Committee on Municipal Affairs, with broad terms of reference, which will give continuing study to municipal problems and will keep the Legislature informed on municipal viewpoints.
4. Codification and clarification of the Municipal Act and related legislation and regulations, in order to reduce the complexity of municipal law, to remove ambiguities and uncertainties, and to make the municipal code more understandable and more workable.
5. Relieving the municipalities from the necessity of seeking the introduction of private bills in the Legislature to meet many of their problems.
6. Revision of the Assessment Act and related administrative changes to provide for uniformity and equity in the assessment of property for taxation in all municipalities.
7. Stabilization of municipal finances at an adequate level by means of the transfer of some costly services, (such as relief) to the provincial level, the development of a coherent and stable system of grants-in-aid, and other appropriate measures. The grant system should include an unconditional unearmarked grant of substantial size, to be adjusted in amount for each municipality in accordance with its fiscal need, as determined by an objective formula prescribed in law. All grants should be administered according to definite and clear rules which will guarantee equity and will assure municipalities of the amounts they may expect to receive well in advance of budgetary periods.
8. Strengthening of the Department of Municipal Affairs so that it is properly equipped to become an effective service agency which will make useful studies and reports, will offer technical assistance on such matters as assessment, will organize training courses for municipal officials, will hold conferences on technical questions, and generally will offer leadership in the improvement of local government.
9. Encouragement of and assistance to the municipalities in the development of civil service systems whereby

employees would be recruited on a merit basis and are trained for efficient municipal service.

10. Administration of provincial standards and regulations governing municipalities in such manner as to achieve compliance generally by means of persuasion rather than coercion, to restrict the powers of the Ontario Municipal Board where deemed necessary

to free the municipal governments from arbitrary interference and bureaucratic decisions by the Province, and to guarantee them reasonable autonomy to operate their own affairs effectively and responsibly within the code of municipal law.

11. Revision of existing legislation to give aid to the Mining Municipalities on an equitable basis:

RECREATION

The Liberal Party will develop a programme of public recreation designed to offer recreational opportunities to all citizens of the province, in town and country, so that they may cultivate their leisure-time advantageously. This program will call for:

1. A Provincial Recreation Act to incorporate and clarify existing and confused provisions of the Education Act, the Community Centre Act, and the Planning Act, and to add new items.
2. Establishment of a separate Division of Recreation within the Department of Education or the Department of Public Welfare and provision for recreation departments, or other separate units in municipalities which qualify for grants.
3. Increase of provincial grants to local recreation programmes from the present nominal and inadequate amounts to at least 50 percent of costs.
4. Development of a public summer-camp programme on a broad basis, co-ordinated with effective use of provincial parks, forests, and other natural resources.
5. Special emphasis on recreation in rural communities, to increase the amenities of rural life.
6. Recruitment and training of skilled leaders for public recreation.

WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The Liberal Party will:—

1. Stand for a Liberal Social Security Program for Ontario which should be fitted into a Social Security Program applicable to all Canadians.
2. Advocate shared responsibility by the Federal and Provincial governments for this Social security program, divided generally as follows: —
 - (a) **Federal Administration** — Cash benefit programs of general application involving no means test including Unemployment Insurance and Family Allowances.
 - (b) **Provincial or Local Administration** — Old Age assistance, Mothers Allowances, Health Plans, general and community relief and other benefits on a personal basis.
3. Favour a Public Health Plan providing NOW for adequate hospital accommodation, sufficient personnel, and insurance against the crippling effect on the average family of catastrophe through illness.
4. Strengthen the Public Health Services concerned with preventive medicine, including the further development of Public Health Units.
5. Extend Mental Health services and particularly preventive measures including clinics with the aid of national mental health grants which must be administered far more effectively to achieve their objectives; reorganization of the Provincial Mental Health Program; appointment of highly qualified psychiatrists and other specialists to key positions and general improvement in administrative procedure, urgently needed to raise the mental health services of the province to a proper level.

6. Develop special measures for the welfare of older people, over and above adequate money pensions—including housing, recreation, occupation, medical care etc. This would be a many-sided “service” programme which would be directed, in part, towards the continued employment of older people beyond 60 in jobs appropriate for them and which would limit the heavy demands for costly money pensions.
7. Assume complete provincial responsibility for the financing and administration of public assistance (or relief) for unemployables and employables and related welfare services with administration to be decentralized through district welfare units.
8. Relate additional Old Age and Mothers Allowance benefits to the cost of living index.
9. Establish humane and intelligent administration, with counselling and other services provided, which will stress prevention of economic need and rehabilitation of the needy in order that positive steps are taken to keep the relief burden to a minimum.
10. Initiate a system of legal aid to guarantee to all persons adequate representation before the courts.
11. Develop an integrated program for rehabilitation of the handicapped, with incorporation of methods and procedures now employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Workmen’s Compensation Board for special groups.
12. Further develop the Child Welfare Program with greater provincial aid to the Children’s Aid Societies and possibly the incorporation of their work, at least in the rural districts, in public welfare units.
13. Extend the Juvenile Court and Probation service throughout the Province; and develop proper Probation Services for the adult courts and reform the Provincial Parole Service.

HOUSING

The Liberal Party will:—

Develop a long-range, positive program to solve the housing problem in recognition of the fact that great numbers of new houses are urgently needed, that housing costs both for owners and tenants must be reduced, that the problem of good rental housing is particularly urgent, and that the Provincial government in co-operation with the Dominion must take the lead to provide adequate housing for all the people of Ontario.

The main elements of this program will be:

1. Vigorous action, in co-operation with municipalities, to take full advantage of all provisions of the National Housing Act, which provides for —
 - (a) land assembly for economical private construction and sale of houses,
 - (b) construction of homes for sale or rent, and
 - (c) construction of low-rental subsidized projects.
2. Provincial contribution of at least one-half of the provincial-municipal share (25 per cent.) of rental subsidies, under the provisions of the National Housing Act, thus relieving municipal objections to participation in such rental subsidy schemes.
3. Encouragement of the formation of municipal housing corporations in the larger municipalities, to undertake the construction and rental of new housing units.

4. Investigation of municipal building codes with a view to action to abolish out-of-date codes which interfere with constructive private or public building.
5. Careful survey of the housing needs of the province, community by community, with the collaboration of municipal authorities, with a view to the formulation of a ten-year program designed to overcome the existing housing shortage, to replace slum and sub-standard houses in town or country, and to provide for growth of population.
6. Establishment of a Provincial Housing Corporation (similar in form to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation) to administer and co-ordinate provincial housing policies, including those under the preceding headings; to build and rent houses in those communities where no municipal authority can easily be established; to investigate ways and means of reducing construction and other housing costs, including the provision of a sufficient supply of efficient building trades workers, and to advise the government on ways and means of overcoming the many technical difficulties which stand in the way of good and economical housing.
7. Development of more effective land-use and industrial planning, including plans to encourage decentralization of industry to smaller communities in order to lessen pressure upon housing in the larger centres.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Liberal Party will:—

1. Construct more mining roads and develop other means of transport throughout Northern Ontario.
2. Lessen the burdens imposed on the prospector and developer by lowering his fees and cutting the assessment work to twenty-five days per claim per year in order to obtain patent and will assure that work may be carried out where most practical on claims under the same ownership.
3. Initiate a policy under which new stakings will be subject to a yearly rental, plus annual work of twenty-five days in order to obtain title.
4. Co-operate with the Dominion Technical Surveys and greatly extend all these services.
5. Achieve a balanced economy in forest areas by the full use of our forest species and products, both pulp and lumber, by intensive research and the application of research elsewhere and by a full program of conservation, reforestation and proper soil use throughout Ontario based on the full choice of the communities concerned.
6. Institute a plan of effective assistance to aid citizens in planting trees and maintaining and extending existing wood lots.
7. Base colonization and settlement in Ontario on a balanced local economy in which remunerative home markets for settlers' products are available and are maintained.
8. Build tourist roads to open the recreation areas throughout Ontario.
9. Extend the facilities for preserving and increasing our fish and game resources together with higher bounties for predatory animals.

AGRICULTURE

The Liberal Party will:—

1. Implement in full the recommendations contained in the report of the Legislative Committee on Soil Conservation and Land Use, which committee was set up by the government as a result of a Liberal resolution.
2. Extend the present system of loans and grants for grading, packing and cold storage plants to include the growers of wheat and soy beans and to include warehousing and drying facilities.
3. Establish a broad plan of land and community settlement in Northern Ontario including:
 - (a) The appointment of competent area supervisors.
 - (b) Establishment of adequate grading and marketing facilities.
 - (c) Directly aid in the provision of heavy equipment for land clearing, road making and drainage.
4. Resort to the establishment of subsidies when necessary to avoid serious dislocation in any branch of the agricultural industry.
5. Support the principle of floor prices for farm products in the event of emergency.
6. Assist approved Junior Farmers, who are desirous of establishing themselves on farms with supervision, by guaranteeing loans up to 80% of land, foundation stock and equipment at interest rates determined for the first 3 years by ability to pay and thereafter not exceeding 3 per cent.
7. Change methods of milk processing plants and dairies so that samples will be taken and tests made by Govern-

ment inspectors and payments made to producers on the basis of these tests.

8. Emphasize agricultural teaching in primary and secondary schools; increase the number of county agricultural short courses; provide three months and two-year courses at Guelph, Kemptville and Ridgetown at minimum costs.
9. Adopt a policy which will assist in providing an adequate supply of farm help.
10. The Liberal Party in its adherence to the principles of free enterprise believes in encouraging the farmer to protect his own economy by the wise use of Co-operatives and by taking full advantage of the provisions of the Farm Products Marketing Act passed in 1946.



HYDRO

The Liberal Party will:—

1. Free Hydro from improper political interference.
2. Give municipalities direct representation on the Commission.
3. Work towards greater uniformity in rates.
4. Guarantee strict economy in the development, construction, distribution and maintenance in order to reduce rates.
5. Confine financing to Canada.
6. Minutely scrutinize all expenditures particularly concerning recent and present power development and the frequency changeover.
7. Immediately stop all unnecessary and extravagant expenditures.

LABOR

The Liberal Party will:—

1. Amend the Labour Relations Act (1950) to provide that a majority of those actually voting should decide certification and decertification rather than a clear majority of all eligible voters.
2. Amend Section 81 of the Labour Relations Act (1950) to provide that employees of Municipal Corporations, their boards and commissions are fully covered by the Act.
3. Legislate for two weeks vacation with pay, after one year of employment.
4. Amend the Workmen's Compensation Act to provide that the waiting period from which compensation shall be paid be reduced from 7 to 3 days and that the maximum compensation payable to a workman be increased to \$3,600.00.
5. Endorse the principles of equal pay and equal opportunity for women workers.
6. Advocate the principle of industrial profit sharing by employees as a supplement to fair wages and the principle of Labor Management Committees.
7. Enact a Fair Employment Practices Act prohibiting discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin or ancestry.

HIGHWAYS

The Liberal Party will:—

1. Carry out a Highway construction program which will take into account the economic interests of the province and its future needs and with special consideration being given to the absorption of additional county roads into the provincial system.
2. Revise the Highway Improvement Act to relieve Municipalities within the counties of the cost of connecting links on Provincial Highways.

LIQUOR

1. Maintain the full responsibility of the government in power for the administration of the liquor laws, the principle of local option and strict enforcement.
2. Devote a substantial portion of the profits of the Liquor Control Board to education and research in the problems of drunkenness and alcoholism.

FRANCHISE

1. Extend the franchise to include all persons of the age of 18 years and over.
2. Amend the Election Act to ensure a fair opportunity for every voter to be on the Voters List.

CIVIL SERVICE

1. Take vigorous steps to reform and improve the Civil Service by the payment of adequate salaries and by the appointment of an independent Civil Service Commission with power to hire and classify civil servants on a merit basis.
2. Incorporate the cost of living bonus into the wage scale.

COST OF LIVING

Enact measures within provincial jurisdiction to protect the consumer against all unfair practices which are adding unjustly to the cost of living and to encourage fair and effective competition.