



THE LIBERAL PLAN
FOR ONTARIO

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Foreword

We in Ontario are the possessors of the fairest and most promising land on earth. We have everything we need to achieve the highest standard of living in the world, to create the best system of education and of social justice, to build an open society free of discrimination and privilege in which a better and richer life is available to all.

To fulfill this promise of Ontario — that is the task and the challenge before government in our province today.

The Liberal Party is a reform party. It stands for those, in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's words, "who think that everywhere, in human things, there are abuses to be reformed, new horizons to be opened up, and new forces to be developed."

The Liberal Party declares the need for reform in Ontario today. After 20 years of Conservative indifference, there are many abuses to be reformed, many injustices and inequities to be righted. There are also new goals and new horizons to be reached, new forces to be developed in order to build a society worthy of Ontario and its people. Above all, there is need for government action, direct and indirect, to create more job opportunities and prosperity in all parts of the province today.

It is in this spirit that the Liberal plan for Ontario is set forth in this booklet.

John D. Winter

Jobs and Prosperity

Provincial Government can and must be a major instrument for generating economic growth and full employment in Ontario. A Liberal Government will not be content with the role of passive bystander while national and external influences alone shape the provincial economy.

A minimum growth of 50 per cent in real terms by 1970 is essential to meet the demand for jobs, to raise personal incomes and standards of living, to improve and expand public services, and to support the provincial budget without onerous tax increases. To achieve this goal, a Liberal Government will take the following steps:

Economic Planning

- An Economic Development Council, consisting of representatives of industry, labour, agriculture, business and government will be established to plan the economic growth of the province.
- Labour-Management Councils on an industry-wide basis will be sponsored as integral parts of the Economic Development Council.
- A Cabinet Committee on Provincial Development will be created under the chairmanship of the Premier to co-ordinate the activity of government departments with the work of the Economic Development Council. The Committee will be composed of the ministers of the relevant departments and have its own professional secretariat.

New Industry

- The Ontario Development Fund will be used to make capital available and provide managerial advice for new industry and the expansion of existing industry.
- Tax incentives, depreciation allowances, adjustment grants, research and technical assistance will be provided to industries locating in slow-growth and distressed areas.
- Preferential hydro rates will be granted for regional development.
- A public utility will be created to pipe Great Lakes water at cost to the homes, farms and industries in those areas of Ontario which lack a permanent, adequate supply of fresh water. An immediate start will be made on a grid system to meet the needs of southwestern Ontario.
- Vocational and technical training and retraining programs will be revised and improved. The establishment of technological institutes will be accelerated, especially in slow-growth areas.

More Investment

A Liberal Government will encourage popular investment in the growth and development of Ontario by:

- Issuing Province of Ontario Savings Bonds and certificates in denominations the small investor can buy.
- Reorganizing the Province of Ontario Savings Office and extending its branches and services to provide long-term, low-cost loans for farming, for housing, for municipal capital works, and for projects which increase the social capital of the province.

Social Capital

One of the most effective ways the Provincial Government can create more jobs and better living conditions is to join with the Federal and Municipal Governments in public projects which provide essential community services and facilities. The need for more schools, parks and libraries, for hospitals and clinics, for low-cost housing, for better streets, roads and rapid transit, for urban renewal and re-development is acknowledged by all. Such social capital is a dynamic factor in generating private investment and creating employment. Utilizing existing agencies and the revitalized Province of Ontario Savings Office, a Liberal Government will participate in such projects to the fullest extent of its constitutional and financial powers.

Priority emphasis will be given to:

Urban Renewal

The rehabilitation of blighted areas in our cities and towns has been impeded because of an unrealistic insistence on housing redevelopment, when in fact all forms of urban decay must be considered as a single problem.

A Liberal Government will:

- Enlist Federal and Municipal support for, and give financial assistance to, a comprehensive program of community improvement, so that residential, industrial, commercial, cultural and transport measures can proceed concurrently.
- Provide credit facilities for municipalities sharing in the cost of the acquisition and clearing of land for re-development.

Municipal Capital Works

The Ontario Municipal Improvement Corporation has been used only as a lender of last resort. A Liberal Government will co-operate with new Federal initiatives in this field to assure the municipalities of long-term, low-cost credit for approved capital projects. This will permit municipalities to plan without being at the mercy of changes in monetary and fiscal policy.

Housing

One third of our people cannot buy or rent new housing. The need can best be met by rehabilitating existing homes and by building low-rental housing.

A Liberal Government will:

- Provide second mortgage money for the purchase of older homes and for the renovation of existing housing; first mortgage money in those parts of the province where the supply is limited; and financing for the construction of low-rental housing units.
- Encourage home improvements by postponing, for a limited period, the increased assessment on such improvements.
- Cut housing costs by standardizing building codes, revising planning procedures and land use regulations, and speeding up Provincial Government processing of subdivision plans. Research will be sponsored into building materials and construction techniques.

Highways

The Conservative Government has a piecemeal approach to the construction of major highways and an unplanned and unco-ordinated development program for secondary roads, particularly in rural Ontario and in northern Ontario.

A Liberal Government will:

- Develop a master plan for highway and road construction as part of an overall transportation program, and thereby direct and stimulate the economic development of the province.
- Borrow money to finance immediate construction of needed highways with the money to be repaid from revenues over the life of the highway.
- Progressively incorporate principal county and township roads into the provincial highway network.
- Expedite the completion of Highway 401 from Windsor to the Quebec border.

Rapid Transit

- Public transit will be promoted as the cheapest and fastest means of transporting large numbers of persons in urban areas. Municipal transit systems will be exempted from provincial fuel taxes.
- The scope of provincial transportation grants will be expanded to cover public transit facilities as well as roads.
- Regional transportation authorities will be established to co-ordinate the transportation facilities of the region and to develop commuter and inter-urban rapid transit in co-operation with the Federal Government.

Northern Development

With 750,000 people scattered over 350,000 square miles, northern Ontario requires development policies of a special order. Despite their 20 years in office, the Conservatives have merely talked about the north.

A Liberal Government will recognize the special needs and unique opportunities of northern Ontario by creating a Department of Northern Resources. The Department will:

- Promote the establishment of secondary industry in northern Ontario through tax concessions, special depreciation allowances, preferential hydro rates, research assistance, and the building of a co-ordinated highway and road network.
- Assist in the establishment of industries to process, in Ontario, raw materials now exported.
- Restore the Ontario Northland Railway to its original function as a development road by lowering freight rates and extending services.
- Promote regional airline service in northern Ontario.
- Extend direct assistance to farmers for storing, processing and marketing their products.
- Survey the resources of the north and co-ordinate public and private development.
- Expand the tourist trade by extending credit facilities to the industry, improving tourist facilities and provincial promotion services, opening new areas to travel, and by leasing Crown lands for tourism for periods commensurate with the capital investment.

Agriculture

The transformation of Ontario from a rural to an urban society, and from an agricultural to an industrial economy, has brought far-reaching economic and social pressures to bear on Ontario's farmers. To assist farmers to meet these pressures effectively is a prime responsibility of Provincial Government.

The Liberal Party believes not only that a strong and healthy agricultural industry is essential to the well-being of Ontario as a whole. It asserts that farming is a way of life which has been, and must continue to be, an indispensable component of our cultural and social fabric. The problem is not simply to prevent the disappearance of the family farm; it is to halt the disintegration of the rural community.

To strengthen agriculture, a Liberal Government will:

- Create a Farm Development Department in an expanded Province of Ontario Savings Office for the purpose of extending long-term, low cost loans to

farmers, without age limitation, for the expansion of their holdings, improvement of farm homes and buildings, and for the mechanization and specialization of farm operations.

- Reclaim marginal land for productive purposes, and intensify programs of reforestation, water conservation and flood control.
- Control vertical integration by legislative action.
- Encourage farmers to establish co-operatives and producer-controlled marketing plans.
- Eliminate present red tape and administrative costs by doing away with the tax on gasoline used by farmers for farm machinery.
- Promote the breeding of superior classes of livestock through assistance to and co-operation with the various breed and farm organizations.
- Establish agricultural research facilities comparable to those in other industry in order to create new uses and markets for Ontario's farm products.
- Support the principle of formula pricing for fluid milk in the province, and join with the Federal Government in providing free distribution of milk in the schools.

To develop new sources of income and assist Ontario's rural economy, a Liberal Government will:

- Provide equality of opportunity and equity in financing our school system through the Foundation Program outlined in the section on education.
- Co-operate with the Federal Government in assisting industry to establish in rural towns and villages.
- Give priority to the establishment of vocational and technical training institutes in rural centres. Vocational training facilities, including evening classes, will be provided for farmers and other rural people wishing to take such courses as welding, electrical wiring, machine shop, and the repair of diesel and gasoline motors.
- Promote, as part of Canada's centennial celebrations, a special program of renovation and facelifting on the main streets of Ontario's towns and villages.
- Create a public utility to pipe Great Lakes water at cost to the homes, farms and industries in those areas of Ontario lacking a permanent adequate supply of fresh water. An immediate start will be made on a grid system to meet the needs of southwestern Ontario.

Labour, Management and Society

The Liberal Party holds that Labour's rights to organize and bargain collectively must be maintained and extended.

It also holds that efficient management must have a fair return on investment. It therefore rejects the view that Labour and Management are enemies and competitors. In the Liberal view, Labour and Management are social and economic partners who must have an equal voice with government in planning for full employment.

This can be done by the formation of an Economic Development Council, representative of government, labour and management, to plan economic growth and by the formation of Labour-Management Councils responsible for such related matters as the on-job training and retraining of workers affected by technological advance.

In addition, a Liberal Government will draft a new Labour Code for Ontario which will:

- Speed up certification, negotiation and conciliation procedures. The need for more trained conciliation officers will be met by special assistance grants to the universities.
- Permit collective bargaining for municipal employees through repeal of Section 89 of the Labour Relations Act.
- Require that a settlement of a legal strike must provide for the rehiring of strikers on a basis of priority over workers hired while the strike was in progress.
- Establish by statute a minimum wage for men and women, excluding farm workers and domestic help, of \$1.25 per hour to be implemented in stages over three years.
- Provide out of general revenues such funds as are necessary to bring Workmen's Compensation for past injuries into line with present-day monetary values. A Select Committee will be established during the first session of the Legislature to inquire into all aspects of the Workmen's Compensation Act and, in particular, to make recommendations concerning the safety and protection of workers, the levels of compensation, the treatment, rehabilitation and employment of injured workers, and the need to make provision for sufficient revenues to maintain up-to-date compensation for future injuries.
- Extend the Portable Pensions Act to cover all employees and not just those in groups of 15 and over.

Medical Care

The Liberal Party stands for a comprehensive government-sponsored, pre-paid medical care program. In order to guarantee the professional integrity and freedom of the doctors, a Liberal Government will implement such a program in consultation with the medical profession and will

administer it through a Medical Care Insurance Commission composed of government and the doctors.

Doctors will be free to practice in or out of the plan and to choose their own patients. Patients will be free to choose their own doctors. Participating doctors will be paid on a fee-for-service basis. Patients selecting non-participating doctors will be reimbursed for services rendered according to the agreed fee schedule.

The Plan will pay for all services of the general practitioners, surgeons and specialists participating in the Plan, and for the services of non-participating doctors up to the agreed fee schedule.

Prescription drugs will be supplied without charge to old age pensioners, the unemployed, and to all persons receiving welfare and disability allowances.

A medical care program obviously cannot be completely implemented overnight. A Liberal Government, however, will give priority to those in most urgent need by insuring immediately all those over 65, the unemployed, and those on welfare and disability allowances, with the premium being paid by the government. This will be done by government purchase of comprehensive coverage from P.S.I. (Physicians and Surgeons Incorporated) and other non-profit, doctor-sponsored medical service plans. At the same time, arrangements will be made with the doctor-sponsored service plans to make comprehensive coverage available to all residents of Ontario regardless of their medical history or state of health. Following this introductory period of 18 months, it will be possible to determine how much of the plan must be financed by personal premiums and how much by the public treasury in order to make it available to everyone who wishes to join regardless of income.

The Liberal Party recognizes that while medical care insurance will remove the crippling cost of medical expenses, many people will still be unable to sustain the loss of income incurred by serious illness. Programs of income maintenance already exist for the unemployed through Unemployment Insurance and for those injured on the job through Workmen's Compensation. An income maintenance program for those without income when they are ill would fill an obvious existing gap in our social security system.

A Liberal Government will consider such a program as the next major step forward in its evolving program of social justice.

Welfare Services

The present welfare system in Ontario is a patchwork of legislation that neither meets the needs of individuals nor

serves the ends of public policy. A Liberal Government, in co-operation with the Federal and Municipal Governments, will adopt an integrated program taking into account not only pensions and welfare payments, but health, economic conditions, rehabilitation and recreation as well.

A Liberal Government will:

- Appoint a committee of experts to conduct a thorough examination of welfare legislation and existing programs and make appropriate recommendations.
- Make bursaries and grants available on a scale sufficient to meet the critical need for more trained social workers.

Mental Health

Ontario's greatest health problem is caused by mental illness; half of the hospital bed space in the province is occupied by mental patients. Strenuous efforts and leadership by the Provincial Government are required to deal with this most pressing problem.

A Liberal Government will:

- Build small community-based mental hospitals.
- Assist and promote the development of psychiatric wards in general hospitals.
- Develop extensive out-patient services and an intensive after-care service for discharged patients.
- Encourage a greatly-expanded research program into the prevention and treatment of mental illness by special grants and the training of skilled personnel.

Education

To improve Ontario's educational system is the most important task facing Provincial Government. The Liberal Party declares that three things are essential:

- We must radically improve the quality of education, both academic and vocational;
- We must provide equality of opportunity, so that the same high standard of education is available to every child in Ontario regardless of where he may live;
- We must greatly expand the facilities for higher education so that no high school graduate will be prevented from going on because of lack of space or lack of money.

To meet these objectives, a Liberal Government will take the following measures:

Teacher Training

No system of education is better than its teachers. The present method of teacher training is woefully inadequate, enjoying neither the respect of the teachers nor the in-

formed public.

A Liberal Government will:

- Reform the curriculum of the Ontario College of Education to emphasize practical teaching experience. As an experiment, selected prospective teachers will be assigned, upon graduation from university, directly to the secondary schools as assistant teachers on an internship basis.
- Work with teachers' federations to raise academic and professional qualifications of teachers.
- Extend financial assistance to teacher trainees and to teachers wishing to broaden their academic experience and upgrade their professional qualifications.

Curriculum and Textbooks

Constant experimentation and patching by the Department of Education without adequate consultation with the teaching profession, have produced a hodge-podge of courses and textbooks in the school system across the province.

A Liberal Government will:

- Establish a core curriculum of essential studies, designed to permit matriculation in 12 years, and uniform for all school grades throughout the province. Additional courses will be provided to accommodate local conditions and special abilities and interests.
- Provide, without charge, standard textbooks specifically prepared for use in the curriculum courses. Such texts will be paperback bound and replaced each year. Supplementary texts, for both prescribed and optional courses, will be available in class sets and in school libraries.
- Introduce the teaching of French in the early grades of the elementary schools.
- Establish educational television as a teaching aid in the classroom.

Educational Research

The kind and quantity of educational research now being done in Ontario is inadequate.

A Liberal Government will:

- Create an Ontario Education Research Institute independent of the Department of Education to conduct research into all aspects of education, including the use of teaching machines, the learning and teaching processes, the enrichment of courses for gifted students, the integration of retarded children in the school system, vocational guidance, and school construction with a view to reducing costs, increasing efficiency and improving design.

Vocational Training

Modern technology requires a vast complement of qualified personnel to operate and maintain the new equipment. Conservative neglect in this field has produced a tragic situation where thousands go without work while there is a dearth of technicians and skilled operators. Panic measures have placed an undue emphasis on specialized vocational training in the high schools with no assurance that the specialized skills so acquired will find employment.

What is required is a comprehensive policy which coordinates vocational training in the high schools with the work of the trades schools, the technological institutes, and the universities.

A Liberal Government will pursue such an integrated policy. The objective of the policy will be to assure that vocational education contains the following elements throughout the province.

- Broadly-based vocational and technical training courses in the high schools designed to make students as adaptable as possible. Vocational guidance for students will be improved.
- Trade schools to provide students with the skills required for immediate employment. On-the-job apprenticeship training will be promoted in co-operation with industry and the trade unions.
- Institutes of Technology to provide higher levels of training for technicians and specialists.
- Special day or night classes for adults wishing to achieve the academic requirements for job training and retraining programs.

Equality of Opportunity

The Liberal Party is irrevocably committed to the proposition that every child enrolled in the publicly-supported schools of Ontario must receive the same high quality of education regardless of what school the child may attend. This is not the case in Ontario today and has not been the case for many years.

Despite the so-called equalization grants from the province, the rural areas have been unable to match urban areas in teachers' salaries, school buildings, equipment and facilities. In 1960, for example, the total monies available to public school boards in rural Ontario amounted to \$231 per pupil, compared to \$305 per pupil in the cities. Inevitably, this has produced inequality of opportunity.

Similarly, the rise of the modern corporation and its widely-held stock ownership has made it a practical impossibility for the separate public schools to receive that share of commercial property and business taxes to which

they are by law entitled. The provincial equalization grants have failed to produce equality. In 1960, the total public monies available to the separate school boards was \$203 per pupil, as against \$332 per pupil to the elementary public school boards.

A Liberal Government will undertake a fundamentally new approach to financing elementary and secondary school education in Ontario. It will:

- Determine the cost per pupil of a foundation program — that is, a high standard of education in terms of school facilities, teachers, curriculum and text books.
- Guarantee this amount of money to local school boards through a combination of local levy and provincial grants. The local levy will be a uniform mill rate on equalized assessment across the province. It will be paid to the local school boards. The difference between the revenues thus raised and the amount required for the foundation program will be made up by provincial grants. Local school boards will be free to levy locally to provide such additional facilities as may be desired.

University Education

The failure of the Conservative Government to plan and provide for Ontario's university requirements is a fatal indictment of Conservative lethargy. The crash program now underway falls tragically short of the financial help the universities need to meet their growth targets in the years ahead, targets which the universities themselves admit will still leave a shortage of some 20,000 student places in 1970.

We cannot afford this waste of our human resources. Liberal policy declares that, (1) there must be room in university for every graduate of secondary school who wants to go on, and (2) that no boy or girl qualified for university should be deterred by lack of money.

Accordingly, a Liberal Government will:

- Establish a University Grants Commission, on which the universities would be appropriately represented, to plan and execute the orderly, long-range growth and development of the university system, and to the end that every student academically qualified for university will be assured of a place.
- Develop a program of scholarships, loans and bursaries so that no student qualified for higher education will be deterred by lack of money.
- Provide special assistance for post graduate studies so that enough university teachers are available to meet increasing enrolments.
- Charter a provincial university, to be known as The

University of Ontario, to meet those needs of higher education which, qualitatively and quantitatively, are not being met and will not be met by the private universities.

Adult Education and the Arts

Education is not just a formal process carried on in schools for children. It is a lifelong development of mind and character. This means, on the one hand, the development of broad programs whereby adults may make up or continue their formal education. It also means public support for cultural and recreational activities beyond the classroom.

A Liberal Government will:

- Provide special assistance for day or night classes in elementary and secondary school education so that adults may achieve the academic qualifications necessary for them to take advantage of job training and retraining programs.
- Support and assist organizations and individuals who are contributing to the cultural life of Ontario. The formation of an Ontario Arts Council is only a first step in this direction. The education programs, including the touring and extension services, of museums and art galleries will be assisted. Better landscaping and architectural design in all public construction will be encouraged. Contracts for the capital cost of constructing certain public buildings will provide that a small, stipulated percentage of the cost must be spent on works of art.
- Expand Ontario's library service and support the creation of an educational television network in the province.
- Preserve the cultural heritage of Ontario by assisting local groups to identify and maintain the province's major historic sites and buildings.

Recreation and Conservation

Ontario's abundant natural resources are not inexhaustible. Much of our land, water and air has already been squandered and abused. Valuable agricultural land has been lost; many lakes and rivers have become open sewers; air pollution in our towns and cities is taking a staggering toll in health, cleanliness and beauty.

A Liberal Government will preserve and restore our natural resources for human use and enjoyment. It will give strong provincial leadership to the work of conservation, and integrate and simplify the overlapping functions of existing agencies.

A Liberal Government will:

- Reclaim, improve and develop park lands and beaches near the urban areas for the greater convenience of the public.
- Co-operate with the municipalities in creating green belts in and around our cities and towns.
- Stop land waste and erosion by reforestation, water conservation and flood control.
- Preserve wilderness areas as sanctuaries for wildlife and for unspoiled camping and hiking.
- Strengthen the laws against water pollution so that conservation and river valley authorities have the power to make our lakes and streams fit for drinking, fishing and swimming.
- Aid municipalities and industries to end air pollution.
- Extend loans to community groups, in co-operation with the municipalities, for the creation of skating rinks, swimming pools, playing fields, community centers and other recreational facilities.

Planning

The growth and development of our towns and cities, the wise use of land and water and the orderly provision of roads, power and other public services can best be done through common sense planning.

A Liberal Government will recognize both the need for Provincial Government leadership in land use and regional planning, and for close consultation and co-operation with the municipalities. It will:

- Create a Cabinet Committee on Provincial Development under the chairmanship of the Premier, composed of the ministers of the relevant departments, and served by a fulltime staff.
- Provide the technical and financial means needed to evolve regional plans for provincial highways, parks, public buildings and other services so that municipalities can plan confidently within a known regional framework.
- Undertake studies at Provincial Government expense of regional needs in housing, urban redevelopment, transportation and industrial location.
- Undertake special studies of the problems of land use, recreation, conservation, public service requirements and tax strengths of non-urban and resort regions of Ontario.
- Assist the establishment, at university level, of a school for town and country planning and civic design, and provide a special grant to the Ontario Division of the Community Planning Association of

Canada.

- Give municipal councils the option to plan without a planning board and to conduct hearings on local planning. An appeal will be provided to the Ontario Municipal Board for affected parties.
- Make available to municipalities, on a fee basis, professional and technical planning consultants and an inspection service for public buildings such as schools, hospitals, rinks and theatres.

Municipal Affairs

A rapidly expanding Ontario economy, providing more jobs and better living conditions, is dependent upon municipal governments having the necessary powers, adequate finances and appropriate assistance and advice from the Provincial Government.

The municipalities are the creatures of the province. Yet the basic structure of municipal government has not been significantly changed in Ontario since it was established in 1849. The property tax, for example, has remained the principle source of local revenue although it is patently obvious that it is no longer an adequate or equitable means of paying for education, health and welfare, the administration of justice and other social services. Similarly, most municipal boundaries no longer bear any realistic relationship to municipal responsibilities and problems, producing as a result a multiplicity of municipal bodies with fragmented authority and overlapping functions.

Long overdue reforms are needed.

A Liberal Government will:

- Redefine the roles and functions of municipal government and overhaul the Municipal Act and related Statutes accordingly. To this end, the municipalities will be invited to appoint delegations to a Provincial-Municipal Conference convened to define the areas in which each level of government can best serve the public.
- Develop stronger units of local government on a regional basis, with particular emphasis on the co-ordinated planning and development of urban and rural land use, inter-urban transportation, recreation and park land, industrial sites and residential subdivisions.
- Provide professional, technical and financial assistance for regional planning.
- Assume a greater share of the cost of education, health and welfare services, and the administration of justice.

Ontario Municipal Board

The Ontario Municipal Board has become the policeman,

judge and jury of Municipal Government with complete power to set its own procedures, to make arbitrary decisions and even to hear its own appeals. A Liberal Government will reorganize and limit the Board's functions and redefine its procedures. The Board will be required to gazette its opinions and to issue an Annual Report.

The Administration of Justice

The conditions in Ontario's courts today are a shocking indictment of the Conservative Government's administration of justice. Inefficient and medieval procedures, archaic organizations, inadequate buildings and facilities, lack of qualified staff and remuneration, political patronage in appointments — all have combined over the years to produce a crisis in our courts. Many citizens are daily being denied their fundamental right to justice and a fair trial.

This must stop. A Liberal Government will stop it.

A Liberal Government will:

- Reorganize the Department of the Attorney-General from top to bottom and staff it with highly-trained personnel paid according to training and experience.
- Abolish the patronage system of employing lawyers in private practice as Crown Counsel in special cases, and replace it with a policy of using the staff of the Attorney-General's Department wherever possible.
- Adjust the salary schedules for Crown Attorneys and Assistant Crown Attorneys so as to attract and keep the best men.
- Assume a greater share of the municipal cost of providing courtrooms and other facilities, and begin immediately on a crash program of providing enough courts and magistrates to handle the volume of cases without either undue haste or delay.
- Reform the archaic land registry system and accelerate the introduction of the land title system of public guaranteed titles.
- Establish proper standards of qualification and training for appointments to the staffs of legal offices and land registry offices, and administer such staffs on a province-wide basis so as to permit promotion according to merit. The practice in some instances of commission payment and fee sharing will be prohibited.

Public Defender

The present voluntary system of legal aid provided by the legal profession has many limitations. A Liberal Government will enact legislation to create a public agency to assure the defense of any person charged in a criminal court in Ontario who for economic reasons is unable to

engage counsel adequate to the nature of the charge in question.

Law Enforcement

The Conservative regime has made a political football of the Ontario Provincial Police; it has deliberately kept the Ontario Securities Commission weak and impoverished; it has been blind to the problem of organized crime.

A Liberal Government will:

- Establish the Ontario Provincial Police as an autonomous body under a Commissioner responsible to the Government for operations and administration. The present system whereby the Commissioner is also a member of the Attorney-General's Department will be discontinued.
- Strengthen the Securities Act and provide the Ontario Securities Commission with enough funds and staff to do its job properly.
- Amend the Corporations Act to provide that any social club incorporated in Ontario will not be entitled to the exceptions of the Criminal Code of Canada with regard to illegal gambling.
- Appoint a permanent Commission to investigate, on a continuing basis, the nature and extent of organized crime in Ontario and to strengthen and co-ordinate the activities of law enforcement agencies against organized crime.

Automobile Insurance

The Liberal Party supports the principle of compensation regardless of fault for death or injury caused by automobile accidents. A Liberal Government will promote the inclusion of such coverage in all standard auto insurance policies by making an appropriate increase in the license fee for uninsured motorists. The Unsatisfied Judgment Fund will also be strengthened to protect the public from hit and run drivers.

Automobile Lien Registry

A Liberal Government will establish a central registry for the recording of automobile ownership and of all charges and encumbrances registered against them. The system will be funded so as to afford a guaranteed title similar to the land titles system.

Usury

The need for control over money loans and time purchase agreements is obvious and action is long overdue. A Liberal Government will enact legislation which will require

that the true rate of interest and all important terms of the contract be printed in reasonable type and in words readily readable by the ordinary citizen; non-compliance will negate the right of the merchant or finance company to recover interest on the unpaid balance.

Administrative Tribunals

A Liberal Government will review and amend all relevant legislation so as to provide an unrestricted right of appeal to the Courts from decisions of administrative agencies which affect the rights of individuals, including property rights.

In the case of expropriation of property, such expropriation will be conducted by a tribunal especially established for the purpose. The standard of compensation to be applied will be prescribed by Statute and will be uniform throughout the Province regardless of the Statute under which the property has been expropriated.

Electoral Reform

The Elections Act will be amended to provide for the appointment of returning officers by the Chief Electoral Officer instead of by the Government, so that by-elections will be called according to the spirit and the letter of the Legislative Assembly Act.

Provincial Accounts

After 20 years of Conservative rule, the provincial accounts are in urgent need of a thorough house-cleaning. Inept and unimaginative handling of Ontario's finances has been accompanied by wasteful expenditures, pork-barrel appropriations, and misleading accounting practices. The Legislature's control over the Public Accounts has become more academic than real.

With a Provincial Budget of over \$1,250,000,000 annually, there is much room for economy and saving.

A Liberal Government will:

- Overhaul the Provincial Fiscal and accounting systems to eliminate waste and re-establish the Legislature's control over public monies.
- Eliminate present pork-barrel appropriations and expenditures.
- Place an immediate freeze, for a period of at least one year, on the size of the civil service.
- Pursue a consistent policy of planned debt retirement.
- Amend the Sales Tax Act so as to remove the Sales Tax from small purchases and thereby eliminate unnecessary nuisance and expense for customers and merchants.

The Liberal Party believes that the policies contained in this platform are necessary for the economic and social well-being of the people of Ontario. Some of them will cost money — let there be no doubt about that. But neither can there be any doubt of Ontario's ability to grow and develop, and thereby provide its citizens with adequate public services. A five percent annual growth rate, for example, will increase provincial revenues by approximately \$100,000,000 a year without any increase in tax rates.

The Liberal policies in this platform are growth policies. They are a responsible reply to the challenge of our times. They are a spring-board for progress.



JOHN J. WINTERMEYER, Q.C. M.P.

**LEADER OF
THE LIBERAL PARTY IN ONTARIO**

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Ontario Liberal Association
The policies of the Ontario
Liberal Party

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ITEM: The policies of the Ontario
Liberal Party.
DUE DATE: 04/15/55