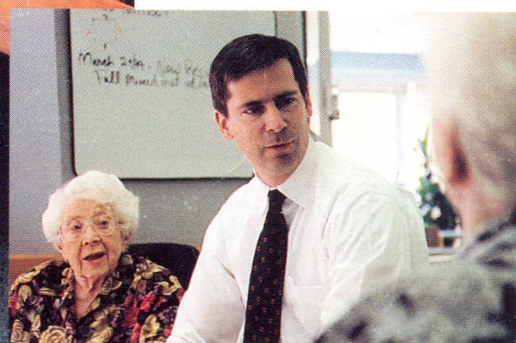
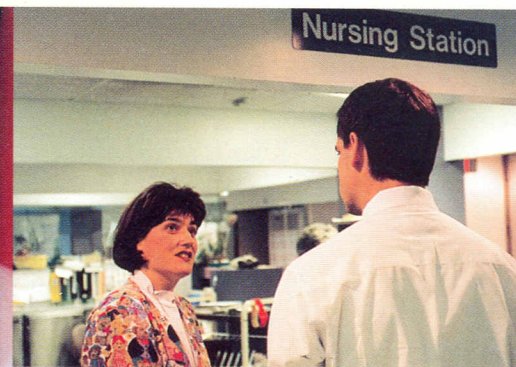


CA6 LPO
99T87



McMASTER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



3 9005 0221 8449 7

McMaster - Mills Library
February 7, 2000
Government Publications

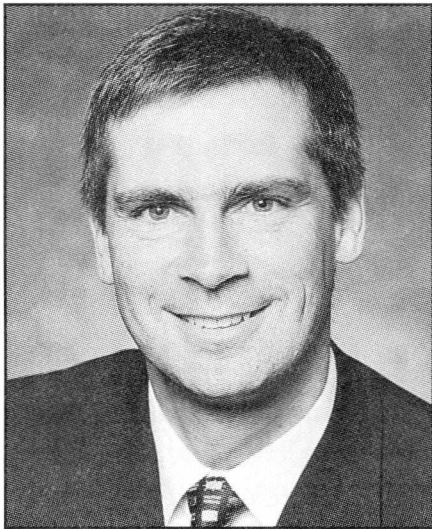
20/20 Plan

A Clear Vision for Ontario's Future

LIBERAL
www.ontarioliberal.com

What's Inside

A Message from Dalton McGuinty	3
The 20/20 Plan for Our Health Care	4
The 20/20 Plan for Education	8
The 20/20 Plan for Our Colleges and Universities	13
The 20/20 Plan for Jobs and the Economy	15
The 20/20 Plan for the Environment	19
The 20/20 Plan to Prevent and Reduce Homelessness	22
The 20/20 Plan for Strong, Safe Communities	24
The 20/20 Plan for Children	25
Appendix: Funding the 20/20 Plan	27



A Message from Dalton McGuinty

The people of Ontario have a message for the current government: the Harris Agenda is not working for them.

We want quality health care we can all count on.

The Harris Agenda has damaged patient care by cutting hospitals, firing nurses and creating chaos in our emergency wards.

Creating a crisis in health care wasn't the tough thing to do. It was the wrong thing to do.

We want quality education we can all count on.

The Harris Agenda has hurt our children by closing schools, cutting classroom spending and turning education into a battleground.

Creating a crisis in education wasn't the tough thing to do. It was the wrong thing to do.

We want a strong economy we can all count on for secure jobs for years to come.

The Harris Agenda has threatened our future by adding \$22 billion to the provincial debt, increasing property taxes and introducing new user fees.

The Harris Agenda works for the wealthy few, the Premier's closest friends and advisers, and high-priced consultants.

They can buy their health care and decent education for their children.

The rest of us want a new direction.

That's what our **20/20 Plan: A Clear Vision for Ontario's Future** is all about.

We can secure our future – and our children's future – by making the right decisions today.

Here's what we will do to make certain Ontario works for all of us, not just for the next **five** or **ten** years, but right through the year **2020**.

- **Clear enforceable standards** for health care you can count on.
- **The best education:** lower class sizes in early grades, high standards for educators, and affordable universities and colleges.
- **Tough new laws** and enforcement to protect our environment.
- **A responsible fiscal plan:** immediate investment in health care and education, a balanced budget, and then tax cuts as the economy grows.

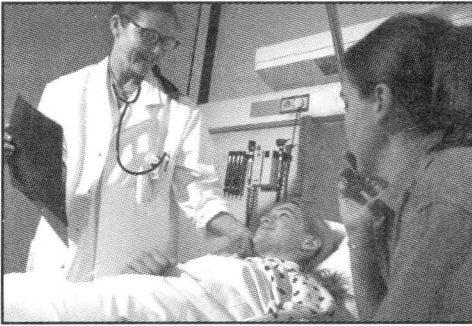
It's a plan based on what I've heard as I've travelled the province listening to people.

A healthy, clean Ontario can prosper. A well-educated Ontario can compete. A fiscally responsible Ontario can create and maintain jobs.

That adds up to a high quality of life, not just for the next five or ten years, but right through the year 2020.

For all of us.

A **Clear Vision** for Ontario's Future



The 20/20 Plan for Our Health Care

After four years of Mike Harris, Ontarians have lost confidence in their health care.

After four years of cuts, closures and chaos, people don't know what to expect when they visit an emergency room or need a hospital bed.

Mike Harris has failed the people of Ontario by undermining health care. He has destroyed the morale of health care workers by taking away the resources they need to meet patient needs. He has hurt everyone involved in health care, but especially the sick, seniors and the most vulnerable.

Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberals will provide health care you can count on.

We will put the system on a solid footing.

That means health care that's there for everyone who needs it – not just those wealthy enough to buy it.

That's part of what it means to be a Canadian.

We won't let Mike Harris take that away from us.

Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberals have a plan to save and improve health care.

It starts with guaranteed standards that clearly spell out what you can count on.

We'll deliver on those standards with strategic investments and innovations in health care.

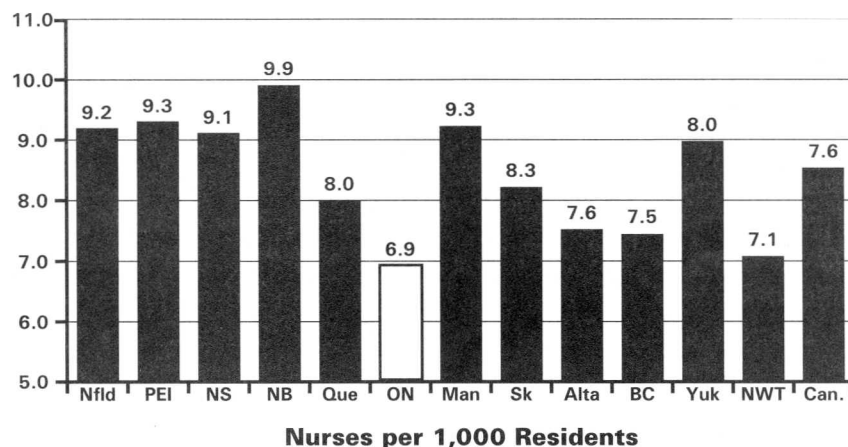
And we'll back up those standards by making quality health care for all the law of the land.

The Harris Agenda

- * **Closed** one out of every five hospitals – after promising not to close hospitals.
- * **Cut** \$870 million from our hospitals – after promising not to take a cent out of health care.
- * **Imposed** \$300 million worth of new user fees – after promising no new user fees.
- * **Fired** nurses until Ontario had the fewest nurses per capita in the country.
- * **Forced** more and more patients to go to the U.S. – or turn to private companies – for everything from basic medical care to cancer treatment.

The following standards are guaranteed:

- Patients in life-threatening situations will get the emergency care they need. Ambulance crews will know where to go to get the care the patient needs, and when they get to the emergency room, it will be staffed and equipped to provide immediate medical attention.
- No one will wait more than 15 minutes to be assessed in an emergency room.
- Patients who need to stay in hospital will be admitted to a room. They will not be abandoned on stretchers in emergency room hallways.
- Patients will get the right care in the right setting. Patient care will never be downgraded to save money. For example, patients who need intensive, around-the-clock care that can only be provided in a hospital setting won't be forced into facilities that don't have the staff or equipment to provide that care.
- No cancer patient will wait more than four weeks for radiation treatment.
- There will be support for new mothers and babies, including the right to stay in hospital for at least 48 hours after birth, and home visits from a nurse following discharge.
- Information on health issues and healthy lifestyles – including a Personal Health Plan – will be readily available to encourage people to make healthy choices.
- The number of nurses per person in Ontario will never again fall below the Canadian average.
- Patients will be assessed prior to leaving hospital to determine whether home care is necessary. Where home care is needed, it will be provided.
- Mental health patients will not be discharged from hospital without a follow-up plan, including access to community-based programs.
- Patients will have legal access to their own medical records.



(Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information)

A **Clear Vision** for Ontario's Future

Additional standards will be developed to meet the following goals:

- Access to basic medical care for everyone. Too many of our communities now face a severe shortage of family doctors.
- Quality nursing care from professional nurses where that level of care is needed. We won't compromise quality by allowing untrained hospital staff to do what nurses should be doing.
- Access to home care across the province. The type and amount of home care you receive should not depend on where you live.
- A new **Health Quality Council** will help us develop additional standards. It will include patients, doctors, nurses and other health care providers working with local communities.

Standards and accountability will be the law.

Our new **Ontario Patient Protection Act** will:

- Guarantee patients' rights to quality health care.
- Ensure our standards are publicly available and enforced.
- Make Ontario the first province to have an independent **Health Quality Auditor** who will report directly to the public.
- Give the **Health Quality Auditor** the power to inspect health care facilities and report on the compliance with health care standards.
- Give the government the power to intervene and make the necessary changes if any facility consistently fails to meet the standards.

A Plan to Meet the Standards

We will:

- Stabilize the hospital system by setting out minimum funding levels for the next five years.
- Hire 10,200 nurses, bringing the number of nurses per capita in Ontario up to the national average.
- Bring doctors to communities that need them, by covering the cost of tuition for medical students who agree to practice for five years in under-serviced areas, and by making it mandatory to train in under-serviced areas.
- Deal with a growing doctors' shortage, by increasing the number of medical school graduates by 15 per cent.
- Provide significant new funding for home care and long-term care.
- Help people care for aging parents and other seriously ill family members by passing a **Family Medical Leave Act**. This will provide up to 12 weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave to employees of companies with more than 50 employees.
- Re-open Women's College Hospital and the Montfort Hospital. These hospitals are of unique province-wide significance. Women's College has been a world leader in providing health care to women. The Montfort is the province's only francophone teaching hospital.
- Make Women's College Hospital become the centre of a province-wide **Women's Health and Research Network** designed to make the latest research and leading professionals available to women and their doctors across Ontario.
- Work with local communities to review their health care needs – including their hospital requirements – through the year 2020, the peak of the aging baby boom. We will not be bound by the recommendations of the Health Services Restructuring Commission because the shortsighted Harris government asked it to review our needs only through the year 2003.
- Make health care information more accessible by setting up a 24-hour **1-800-TEL-CARE** line and web site. A team of nurses, backed by a supervising doctor, will answer your questions and e-mails.
- Make a **Personal Health Care Plan** available to every Ontarian who wants one. Based on a patient's family history, lifestyle and health care needs, the plan will tell people how to stay healthy, helping us all save health care resources.
- Make CPR training mandatory in Ontario high schools, providing life-saving training to another 100,000 people each year. As the MPP for Ottawa South, Dalton McGuinty worked to make this happen in Ottawa-Carleton, where the program has been very successful.

A **Clear Vision** for Ontario's Future



The 20/20 Plan for Education

After four years of Mike Harris, public confidence in public education is disappearing.

After four years of cuts, closures and chaos, Ontarians don't know what to expect from our schools.

More and more parents are being forced to turn to private schools, where enrollment is up 15 per cent.

More and more educators are so demoralized they're leaving the classroom, mostly by opting for early retirement.

One out of every four teachers is set to retire over the next five years. If nothing is done, the shortage of qualified teachers will grow to a shortfall of 13,500 by the year 2003.

If we lose public education, the vast majority of our children will lose their best chance at success.

How many of us would enjoy the quality of life we have today if our parents had to be wealthy enough to afford tuition for private school?

Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberals have a plan for publicly-funded education.

We'll keep your schools open in your communities, provide smaller class sizes in the early grades, and treat educators as professionals that deserve respect.

Parents and students will know their schools are excellent, their teachers are highly qualified, and the opportunities to learn are limitless.

The Harris Agenda

- * **Cut** \$1 billion from schools - after promising not to take one cent out of classroom education.
- * **Slashed** special education, adult education and English-as-a-second-language instruction.
- * **Threatened** hundreds of schools with closure, either now or after the election, because of the disastrous Harris funding formula.
- * **Created chaos** that disrupted public schools and convinced more and more parents to choose private education.

The Best Schools, the Best Teachers, the Best Opportunity to Learn

The best schools are dependable,
modern, safe – and open.
We will:

- Ensure our schools have the resources they need by investing in public education.
- Get Queen's Park and school boards out of the school-closing business. We will scrap the shortsighted funding formula that fails to take into account what a school really means to a community.
- Implement a five-point plan to modernize our schools:
 - Provide 22,000 new computers to classrooms during each year of our mandate. This means every school in Ontario will receive five new computers each and every year.
 - Keep computer labs open before and after school.
 - Require every school to have a web site.
 - Include electronic commerce and internet site design in high school business courses.
 - Require every high school student to complete a course in computer science.
- Stop the fighting. Students learn best in a stable environment. We will get the best out of our partners in education by working with them.
- Tell local communities *what* standards are to be met – without dictating *how* they must be met. We won't impose made-in-Toronto solutions on the rest of the province. Nor will we impose made-in-North-Bay solutions on Toronto.
- Say no to voucher programs and charter schools.
- Ensure our students are safe by establishing safe school zones. Anyone convicted of carrying a weapon or dealing drugs within five blocks of a school will be subject to a new provincial penalty of up to two years in prison.
- Ensure our schools are disciplined by encouraging them to adopt and enforce codes of conduct - something already in place in most schools.
- Work with publishers to develop the biggest and best school library in Canada. Completely digitized, it will be available for the use of students, staff and the public.

Every child – every Ontarian – is entitled to the opportunity to learn.

- Your child will get the help he or she needs. You should not have to pay a private tutor to do what your tax dollars should be doing. We will provide new tutorial and remedial programs that can be offered in our schools in the evenings or on Saturdays.
- We will reinvest in the special education programs slashed by Mike Harris because every child deserves the opportunity to learn.
- Adult education slashed by Mike Harris will be restored because we all win when someone has the courage to return to school, or the drive to improve.
- English-as-a-second-language instruction will be offered to everyone who needs it to learn.

Accountability: information for parents, report cards for schools and government.

- A parent information package will be provided to parents before the school year starts. It will spell out exactly what children are learning, when they're learning it, and how parents can help. There will be monthly updates.
- An annual report card will be issued on our schools. It will spell out how schools fare on a quality index that includes programs, supplies, innovation, computers, extra-help, standard test results in math and science, literacy and their ability to meet local needs. The report card will be used as a guide for educators and parents to work together on an improvement plan for the school.
- Accountability is a two-way street. So an annual report card on the overall performance of the education system will include a section on whether the government is doing its share. This report will be done by an existing independent organization – the Education Quality and Accountability Office.

Our children must have the best teachers.

The people who teach our children are the most important resource in the classroom. We cannot save and improve public education without our educators at their best.

But the current government is not only failing to give teachers and teaching assistants the training and tools they need – it's driving them out of the classroom.

To cope with the growing teachers' shortage – and to ensure all of our children have qualified teachers – we will expand the number of spaces in existing teachers' colleges, and recruit the best and brightest students to become teachers.

Teaching will be recognized as a profession that deserves respect and must meet the highest standards.

Ontario will not only have enough teachers, it will have the highest standards in North America for people training to become teachers.

All new teachers will be required to pass certification exams that test their knowledge of teaching techniques, ability to identify learning difficulties, and computer and science literacy.

Teachers want better ongoing training and we will provide it, starting with an additional week of training each year.

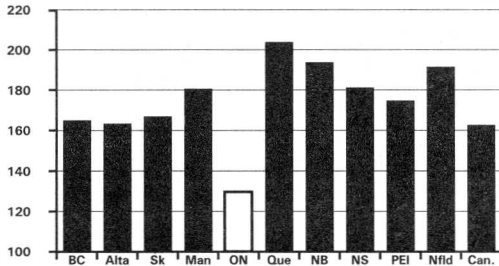
Computer courses will be offered each summer to teachers who participate in our **Teach the Teachers** program. Graduates of these courses will then share computer skills with other teachers in their schools.

Early education: getting kids off to a good start today will equip them for the best jobs tomorrow. We will:

- Immediately reduce the average class size in the early grades from 25 students to 22 students. We will work with school boards over the course of our mandate to achieve our goal of actual class sizes of 16 to one in junior kindergarten, 18 to one in senior kindergarten, and 20 to one in Grades 1 to 3.
- Restore and fully fund junior kindergarten right across Ontario.
- Start expanding our education system to include an optional program for three year olds. A pilot project will be launched in eight communities.

The middle years: keeping kids in school and on track.

- Our **Bridge to Success** plan will be aimed at students in Grades 7 to 9. These are the crucial years when kids either start planning for high school and beyond – or start planning to drop out.
- We will work with schools and parents to develop programs that encourage kids to stay in school and prepare for further education and the world of work. These will include remedial programs in reading and writing, math and science, and computer technology.



Per Capita Funding to Ontario Universities

(Source: Council of Ontario Universities)

The 20/20 Plan for Our Colleges and Universities

After four years of Mike Harris, parents and students are paying more for less in our colleges and universities.

Tuition is up. Student debt is up. But funding for higher education is down.

In the new economy, you only earn if you learn. The new jobs will only go to those who are the best educated and most highly skilled.

Dalton McGuinty and the Liberals have a plan for universities and colleges.

We can't allow higher education to be reserved only for those families with the highest incomes.

We must improve it – and make it affordable – if we're going to compete tomorrow, five years from now, and right through the year 2020.

The Harris Agenda

- * A 60 per cent **tuition hike** for university and college students.
- * A **\$400 million cut** from universities and colleges.
- * Ontario is now the **most expensive** place in Canada to get a post-secondary education.
- * Ontario ranks **last in Canada** in per-capita funding for post-secondary education.

Quality that's Affordable, Accessible and Accountable

Our four-point plan to tear down the
barriers to higher education.

We will:

- Immediately cut tuition fees by 10 per cent.
- Re-regulate tuition fees for professional programs.
- Restore student aid for part-time students cut off by the Harris government.
- Allow working students to earn up to \$1,800 during the school year without having their student aid deducted.

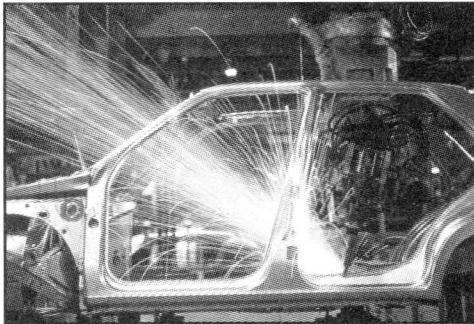
Strategic investment:
last place is not good enough for Ontario.

- We will increase our investment in post-secondary education to meet the national average within five years.
- New college and university funding will be targeted at programs that will prepare Ontario for the social and economic challenges of the next 20 years.

Accountability:
better information will mean
more informed choices.

- We'll issue report cards on college and university programs so students and their parents can make informed choices. The report cards will tell you whether the courses are taught by a professor or a teaching assistant, how large the classes are, how many students from that program have found employment and how many have been accepted into graduate school. We'll tell you which universities' programs rank among the top in the province.

A Clear Vision for Ontario's Future



The 20/20 Plan for Jobs and the Economy

Our goal will be to make Ontario's economy the most productive in North America.

A strong economy is what provides a high quality of life – including quality health care and quality education.

We would never jeopardize our long-term economic well-being with the sort of shortsighted, irresponsible policies put in place by the Harris government.

We'll start with a balanced, responsible fiscal plan that does the right things in the right order.

Immediate investments in the education and health of our people. A balanced budget. And then tax cuts as the economy grows.

Just as health care and education depend on a strong economy, health care and education are keys to our economic prosperity.

We can't attract new jobs in a new century if our children don't have the education they need.

And we can't compete if we fail to keep Ontarians healthy.

By making the right decisions today, we can ensure our productivity, competitiveness and prosperity right through the year 2020.

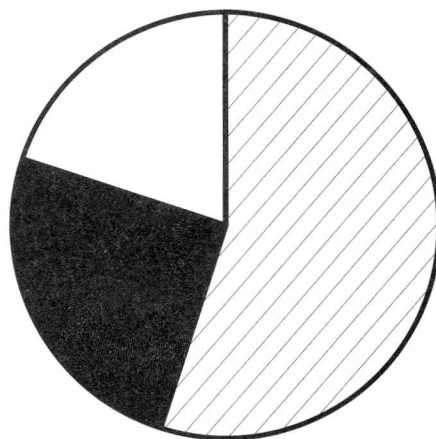
The Harris Agenda




- * Increased property taxes and user fees by **downloading** more than \$700 million in services onto local property taxpayers.
- * **Borrowed** every cent of his tax cut, adding \$10 billion to the provincial debt.
- * Overall, the **provincial debt** is up \$22 billion – that's \$7,500 in extra debt for each and every Ontario household.
- * Ontario still has the **same credit rating** it had during the NDP years.
- * Ontario still has **not balanced its budget** – unlike Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

A Fiscal Plan that Makes Real Sense

The right approach to our finances – in the right order.

- We will immediately invest an additional \$2.5 billion a year in our priorities. That includes \$2.1 billion in health care and education and \$400 million in priority areas which include environmental protection, help for the homeless, and getting kids off to the best possible start.
- Not one cent of this money will come from your pocket in higher taxes. Not one cent will be borrowed. It will come from increased transfers from the federal government and money we have identified in the current provincial budget – including money now wasted on high-priced consultants and partisan advertising.
- As the economy grows, additional revenues will be used to balance the budget.
- Once the budget is balanced, the fiscal dividend would be split three ways:
 - **55 per cent** for our priorities, primarily health care and education;
 - **25 per cent** in tax relief aimed at lower and middle-income Ontarians, to help them start to catch up;
 - **20 per cent** for debt reduction and a rainy day fund, to ensure health care and education are protected in good times and bad.
- For more detailed information on funding the **20/20 Plan**, please refer to the appendix on page 27.



-  Health and Education
-  Tax Relief
-  Debt Reduction & Rainy Day Fund

Investing the Fiscal Dividend

Fair property taxes.

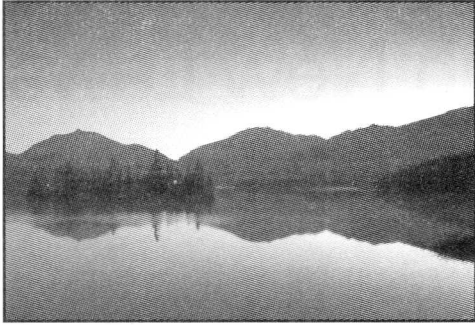
- We will end the chaos caused by the Harris government, which imposed seven property tax bills on property taxpayers over two years.
- We will stop the disastrous downloading of provincial services onto local property taxpayers.
- As a sign of our commitment to stop downloading, we will upload ambulance services, providing a saving of as much as \$200 million to local property taxpayers.
- A new property tax class for small retail properties will keep them in our cities and towns and on our main streets by keeping the lid on property tax increases. Mom and pop corner stores will no longer be taxed at the same rate as bank towers.

A modern approach to the modern workplace.

- We will modernize Ontario's approach to employment and employability.
- Our new **Registered Lifelong Learning Plan** will allow Ontarians to make tax-deductible contributions to a fund they can draw upon to further their formal education or get retraining.
- Our new **Ontario Self-Employment Initiative** will recognize the growing number of self-employed workers in Ontario. We will work with the private sector to develop group insurance plans and retraining programs for this vital sector, tearing down one of the last barriers to entrepreneurship.
- There will be fair access to trades and professions. In the new economy, we can't afford to waste the intellect and skills people have brought here from other countries. We will work with trades and the professions to create fair entry standards for everyone.
- Our schools will offer greater access to apprenticeship, vocational and technical training focussed on skills needed by local employers. These programs should be integrated into the secondary school program - providing pathways to further training in colleges or to jobs.

Government will catch up with the information age.

- We will publish **The Jobs Report** - an easy-to-read guide to the sectors and occupations offering the best chance at private and broader public sector employment over the next five years. Twice a year, we'll tell you where the new jobs are - and where future jobs are being created.
- Government will be on-line so you don't have to wait in line. **Ontario-Online** will ensure provincial services are offered on your home or office computer.
- We will work with the private sector as the catalyst to provide Ontario with the best digital network in North America. Tremendous opportunities are offered by today's new technology. We can lead the world in electronic commerce. We can link our best health professionals and educators. But to do so, Ontario has to be the most connected jurisdiction in North America. And those connections must be capable of quickly handling massive amounts of information.



The 20/20 Plan for the Environment

After four years of Mike Harris, Ontario is no longer a world leader in environmental protection.

We're now one of North America's worst polluters.

Our efforts to clean up our water are stalled because water quality programs have been cut.

Our air is literally killing us. But we're doing nothing to improve or enforce our air quality standards.

Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberals have a plan for our environment.

We know this is really a health issue. It's about the air we breathe, the water we drink and the communities in which we live.

So we will introduce three tough new laws designed to cut air pollution, clean up our water and protect us from the dangers of hazardous waste.

The Harris Agenda

- * Ontario is now the **third worst polluter** in North America.
- * The Ontario Medical Association says there are **1,800 premature deaths** each year because of air pollution. That's a death every five hours.
- * Air pollution **costs** our health care system a billion dollars a year.
- * Ontario has become a **dumping ground** for hazardous waste from American states because they have much tougher laws.
- * Mike Harris **fired** environmental inspectors, weakened environmental regulations, and failed to prosecute polluters.
- * Mike Harris **cut** the budget for environmental protection by 42 per cent - after promising not to take one penny out of the environment.

A **Clear Vision** for Ontario's Future

Tough New Laws for a Healthy Future

Our new **Ontario Clean Air Act** will:

- Convert Ontario's five coal-burning plants to cleaner-burning natural gas. Working with Ontario Hydro and the private sector, we'll take the biggest step we can for cleaner air. This will reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 83 per cent, nitrogen oxides by 64 per cent and greenhouse gases by 40 per cent.
- Give Ontario the cleanest gasoline in North America instead of the dirtiest. Air emissions will be further reduced with the lowering of sulphur in gasoline to 30 parts per million.
- Set new air emission standards that will be among the toughest in North America. In 1992, the provincial auditor warned that 226 air regulations were badly outdated and needed to be strengthened. Nothing has been done. We will change that.
- Require that environmental protection be given the same priority as low-cost and reliable electricity as companies begin to compete with Ontario Hydro in the new energy market.

Our new **Ontario Safe Drinking Water Act** will:

- Make it clear that clean water is too valuable to lose – or sell off.
- Set clear and enforceable standards for water quality.
- Restore water-testing programs cut by the Harris government.
- Restore and enhance funding for cleaning up the Great Lakes, targeting the most toxic hot spots.
- Stop the Harris plan to privatize the Ontario Clean Water Agency, which provides five million Ontarians with their drinking water.
- Prevent municipalities from selling their water and sewer assets to the private sector.
- Stop water exports to the United States.
- Stop the Harris government's plan to allow the dumping of blood products and other hazardous wastes into municipal sewers.

Our new **Hazardous and Toxic Waste Act** will:

- Stop Ontario from becoming a dumping ground for hazardous waste from the U.S. by setting tough standards.
- Give Ontarians – including police and firefighters – the right-to-know which hazardous materials are stored in their communities.
- Launch a public inquiry into the Plastimet Fire in Hamilton that spewed toxic chemicals into local neighborhoods. Mike Harris wants to ignore it. We think the public has a right to know what mistakes were made and how they can be prevented from occurring again anywhere in Ontario.

A new approach.

Our new laws and standards will be drafted with the health of children in mind. For too long, standards have been set on the basis of what adults can withstand, instead of what our children need to stay healthy.

To help enforce these laws, we will hire an additional 100 environmental enforcement officers who will make sure polluters do not get a free ride at the expense of our health.

And to ensure we're making progress, there will be a clear annual report card on the **State of Ontario's Environment**.

It will identify major polluters, list major incidents and what's been done to fix them, and include up-to-date health information such as the incidence of respiratory illnesses.

And it will require a major audit of the government's own performance – telling you what Queen's Park should be doing better.

The **20/20 Plan** to Prevent and Reduce Homelessness

The growing numbers of homeless on the streets of Ontario is disgraceful.

The sources of some of these tragedies – including the de-institutionalization of psychiatric patients – can be traced back several years.

But the Harris government's shortsighted and mean-spirited policies have made things worse for low-income families and individuals seeking shelter.

Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberals have a plan for helping the homeless.

We can't completely eliminate the problem, but we can eliminate the indifference by working towards solutions.

The Harris Agenda

- * **Turned his back** on affordable housing initiatives.
- * **Abolished rent controls** – leading to higher rents and less protection for tenants.
- * **Cut psychiatric hospitals**, forcing more early discharges without adequate follow-up.

The Golden Report: an opportunity to make a difference.

We will build on the recommendations of the Golden Task Force on Homelessness, chaired by Anne Golden. We know that effective strategies mean

working in partnership with the other levels of government and the private and non-profit sectors to prevent and reduce homelessness.

We will:

- Establish an additional 7,500 community care housing units for former psychiatric patients and others with special needs.
- Introduce a new children's benefit that will provide money for shelter, as well as food and clothing, for our youngest and poorest citizens, including the children of the working poor.
- Make housing more affordable – and protect tenants from being forced out of apartments – by restoring rent control.
- Offer provincial sales tax rebates on building materials for affordable housing projects and encourage the federal government to rebate the GST on these projects as well.
- Ensure that psychiatric hospitals establish discharge protocols for all persons with no fixed address so no one will be on the street without follow-up supports and services.

The 20/20 Plan for Strong, Safe Communities

While police tell us the incidence of violent crime is actually declining, we must ensure we are doing everything within our power to keep our communities safe for everyone.

That means those who commit violent crimes – including youth – must face severe penalties.

But those who exploit our youth – and our children – will be dealt with most severely.

Unlike the current government, we will act on a key recommendation of the task force in the Paul Bernardo case by pulling together Ontario's finest police officers to establish an elite, experienced, highly trained squad of police to investigate Ontario's most heinous crimes.

Crown attorneys will be instructed to prosecute the most serious and violent crimes, especially those against children and seniors, to the full extent of the law by seeking the maximum penalty.

We will aggressively pursue the proceeds of crime. Drug dealers should never have a fancy home or fat bank account waiting when their prison sentence is completed. We will make this a priority. We will ensure the proceeds go toward law enforcement and front line policing.

We will quadruple funding for Project P, the Ontario Provincial Police's crackdown on child pornography.

Tougher penalties for the customers of child prostitutes will include time behind bars. They will be charged with child abuse.

Funding will be restored for shelters and services for abused women and their children.

We will allow municipalities to introduce red light cameras to nab drivers who run red lights.

The Harris Agenda

- * **Ignored** real common sense by changing gun regulations so 12-year-olds can carry loaded rifles.
- * **Damaged** municipalities' ability to pay for effective policing by dumping provincial costs onto local property taxes.
- * **Failed** the victims of domestic violence by slashing the budgets of shelters who take in abused women and children.
- * **Failed** to act on a key recommendation of Mr. Justice Archie Campbell's task force on the Bernardo case.

The 20/20 Plan for Children

The shortsighted and mean-spirited policies of the Harris government have hurt children more than any other group in society.

Children need a strong safety net, quality health care and quality public education today.

They also count on us to build a future for them. The decisions we make today will determine what sort of Ontario they live in 20 years from now, in the year 2020.

From the time he was elected leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, Dalton McGuinty has put the interests of children on the political map.

The recommendations of **First Steps** – the report of his Task Force on Children – are featured throughout our 20/20 Plan.

First released in February 1998, **First Steps** remains a blueprint for what needs to be done to secure our future by helping our children.

We will implement the report's recommendations, which include junior kindergarten, 48-hour hospital care and home visits for new mothers, family medical leave, a new Ministry of Children and province-wide practice standards, including caseload limits, for Children's Aid Societies.

The Harris Agenda

- * An estimated 500,000 Ontario children live in **poverty**.
- * Services for children are **fragmented** and difficult to find.
- * One of the first things the current government **cut** was funding to Children's Aid Societies – resulting in the loss of 340 case workers.

Appendix: Funding the **20/20 Plan**

Our fiscal plan offers the right approach to our finances – in the right order: immediate investments in health care and education, a balanced budget and then tax relief as the economy grows.

Guaranteed investments:

The following funds are guaranteed to be available for re-investment in good times and in bad (in billions):

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Federal Government	\$1.1	\$1.2	\$1.5	\$1.5
Savings/ Reallocations Already Identified	\$1.4	\$1.4	\$1.4	\$1.4
Total	\$2.5	\$2.6	\$2.9	\$2.9

The above funds will be distributed as follows (in millions):

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Health Care	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,400	\$1,400
Education *	\$850	\$865	\$920	\$920
Child Protection	\$160	\$225	\$325	\$325
Housing	\$100	\$115	\$115	\$115
Environment	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
The North	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30
Agriculture	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35
Other	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
Total	\$2,500	\$2,600	\$2,900	\$2,900

* includes post-secondary education

Specific areas of annual spending include (in millions):

Hospitals	\$600	Schools	\$475
Home Care / Long term Care	\$510	Colleges and Universities	\$400
Uploaded from Municipalities	\$200	Poor Children's Benefit	\$250

Finding the Money

In addition to the \$1.5 billion the Ontario government will receive in increased transfer payments from the federal government, we have identified \$1.4 billion in high-priced consultants, partisan government advertising and numerous slush funds. All savings will be re-directed to our priority areas.

	Savings (in millions)
• Re-allocate one-time funding to priority areas	\$403
• Ban partisan government advertising and eliminate waste	\$90
• Use existing public servants instead of high-priced consultants	\$145
• End political slush funds	\$757
Available for re-allocation	\$1,395

Re-allocating one-time funding to priority areas: **\$403 million**

Provincial Portion of Federal Infrastructure Program: \$113 million

- The Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Program has expired.

Hepatitis C (One-time payout): \$200 million

- This one-time fund was established last year to provide compensation to individuals who contracted Hepatitis C as the result of blood transfusions. All payments will be made.
- We will hold any funds not spent from last year's budget in trust until we can be assured that all individuals have been compensated.
- Funds available for reinvestment will stay in the health budget.

One-time Funding to School Boards: \$69 million

- This year's budget includes "one-time adjustment funding" of \$69 million to help boards deal with the new funding formula. We will ensure this funding stays in education.

Development Corporations: \$21 million

- The Harris government announced in November 1995 that the Development Corporations would be wound down and no new commitments for loans or loan guarantees would be made.
- The 1998-99 budget included the final costs involved in winding down these corporations (\$11 million operating and \$10 million loss on loans).

Banning partisan government advertising and eliminating waste: **\$90 million**

Legislating a Ban on Partisan Government Advertising: \$52 million

- Mike Harris has wasted \$100 million tax dollars promoting his government with partisan political advertisements over the last two years.
- A Dalton McGuinty government will legislate a ban on partisan government advertising and will earmark these savings into the delivery of needed programs not pamphlets.

Legislative Assembly: \$8 million

- The budget of the Legislative Assembly grew by over \$8 million in the past year, we will return the budget to its 1997/98 level.

Scrapping the Education

Improvement Commission: \$8 million

- The so-called "Education Improvement Commission" is a new education bureaucracy created by the Harris government. Its main responsibility has been to oversee the amalgamation of school boards which is now complete. Much of its other work is duplicated by the ministry.
- We will shut down this unnecessary second bureaucracy and transfer any remaining functions to existing resources in the ministry of education.

Reduction in Political and Executive Offices: \$7 million

- A 10 per cent cut in the Premier's Office, the Cabinet Office as well as all Ministers and Deputy Minister's offices will save \$7 million.

Health Services Restructuring Commission: \$5 million

- After closing one-fifth of Ontario's hospitals, Mike Harris wants to keep the HSRC alive and have it study ways to integrate health care in Ontario.
- We believe this is an unnecessary waste and duplication. The commission will be closed. All remaining functions will be transferred to the Ministry of Health and will be accommodated through existing ministry budgets.

Cabinet / Premier's Office

(Jobs and Investment Board): \$4 million

- Home of Mike Harris' former Principal Secretary and key campaign aide, this political office operates under the facade of a non-partisan government office.
- A Dalton McGuinty government will make the \$4 million available for re-allocation in future budgets by closing this home for retired political operatives.

Privatization Secretariat: \$4 million

- This office will be closed.

Gaming Secretariat: \$2 million

- The Gaming Secretariat is responsible for looking for new ways to expand gambling in the Province of Ontario. It does not regulate or enforce gaming activities, that is the responsibility of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission.

A **Clear Vision** for Ontario's Future

Using existing public servants instead of high-priced consultants: **\$145 million**

- The Provincial Auditor was highly critical of the government's use of high-priced consultants. He singled out a \$180 million deal with Anderson Consulting. A deal that saw taxpayers paying up to \$115 an hour for clerical staff and \$575 per hour for the project director. We will cancel this lucrative deal saving taxpayers at least \$75 million.
- In addition to the money spent on Anderson Consulting, the Harris government is spending over \$252 million a year on consultants. Not included in this figure is a new \$220 million consulting contract in the justice system. We will cut the use of these high-priced consultants by 15 percent, saving another \$70 million.

Ending political slush funds: **\$757 million**

"Finance Restructuring and other Charges – unallocated": \$400 million

- This political slush fund is "unallocated" money that the Conservatives have added to the budget in their Third Quarter Finances. No explanation was provided in the accompanying background.
- The money does not come from the Contingency Fund or any other Reserve or Restructuring Fund. This money, by its nature, is one-time money and is therefore available for re-allocation in future budgets.

"Special Circumstances" Fund: \$77 million

- This is the slush fund to end all slush funds. This \$77 million slush fund was established to hide the real cost of Mike Harris' downloading to municipalities. Despite its size, no criteria exists for its use.
- Oddly, this political slush fund is administered by Chris Hodgson, the Chair of Management board and political confidant of the Premier and not the Minister of Municipal Affairs.
- Our platform will direct this funding into real and permanent relief for property taxpayers and municipalities – not for political band-aids and slush funds.

Restore Traditional Contingency Fund: \$280 million

- Just before an election, Mike Harris has artificially increased the size of the contingency fund to a record \$830 million. The traditional level of this fund is \$280 million. The Third Quarter Finances show that \$610 million still remains in this year's fund.

Size of Contingency Fund in Past Budgets:

1990-91 Budget	\$123 million
1991-92 Budget	\$195 million
1992-93 Budget	\$365 million
1993-94 Budget	\$443 million
1994-95 Budget	\$321 million
1995-96 Budget	\$211 million
1996-97 Budget	\$213 million
1997-98 Budget	\$380 million
Average	\$280 million
1998-99 Budget	\$830 million

- A Dalton McGuinty government will budget \$330 million in its contingency fund (20% higher than traditional levels).

353 306 87 009

Thank you for obtaining a copy of our
20/20 Plan:
A Clear Vision for Ontario's Future.

It's a plan to provide health care, education, and an
economy we can count on.

It's a plan to build an Ontario that works for all of us.

Let me know what you think.

Write:
Dalton McGuinty
Leader of the
Ontario Liberal Party
10 St. Mary's Street
Suite 210
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 1P9

Phone:
1-888-ONT-LIBS
(1-888-668-5427)

E-mail:
dalton@ontarioliberal.com

Web site:
www.ontarioliberal.com

This document was paid for by the
Ontario Liberal Party.

