



1  
EDUCATION

# excellence for all

THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN FOR EDUCATION

 **LIBERAL**



**Education has never been more important for young Ontarians and for our province's prosperity. Yet our schools have never been more threatened and our students have never been more at risk.**

**Sadly, in our many visits to schools across the province, Gerard Kennedy, our education critic, and I have seen our students suffer from seven years of senseless cutting and failed reforms under the Harris-Eves government. We have seen the disastrous effects of favouring private schools over public schools.**

**Our kids are paying a terrible price.**

**The Ontario Liberals have a plan to make public education the best education. It is a practical plan that draws on the best approaches to education around the world – including some developed right here in Ontario. It is a plan that builds on the many strengths of our province. And it is a plan that puts the needs of our students first.**

**Here is what our Excellence for All Plan does:**

- It sets ambitious achievement targets and supports them with smart investments.**
- It helps young children get the best start in learning, before they enter school.**

- It ensures that all our children get what they need to succeed in school, as well as later in life.
- It stops the fighting and gets government working together with parents, teachers, schools and boards to put our public schools back on track.

I ask you to be part of the education solution. Read our plan and join me in forming a government dedicated to excellence in public education for all our children. They deserve it. Our future depends on it.



**Dalton McGuinty**

**Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party**



## **The Ladder of Opportunity**

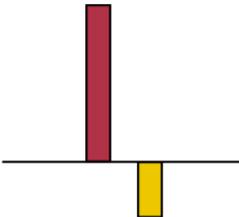
**Public education is the ladder of opportunity for all our children.** Excellent public education helps our kids climb as high as they can and become the best they can be.

Our children need excellent schools to shape their minds and characters during their school years and sustain them during their working years. In our global economy, excellence in education is a necessity, not an option.

Public education has suffered under the Harris-Eves government. **It's time for a change.**

**We believe in excellent public education for all children. The Harris-Eves government believes in exclusive private schools for the few.**

## **The Harris-Eves Private School Scheme**



**Private School Funding:**  
Up \$3500 per student

**Public School Funding:**  
Down \$1250 per student

The Harris-Eves government broke and battered our public schools, allowing our students to fall behind. **We will build a strong public education system that supports student success and raises student achievement.**

The Harris-Eves government has abandoned the public schools that serve all our children, and favoured exclusive private schools instead. **We will promote excellence in learning for all Ontario students and cancel tax breaks for exclusive private schools.**

The Harris-Eves government created turmoil for our students by mismanaging their schools and showing disrespect for their teachers. **We will bring peace and stability to our schools.**

# higher student achievement

## ***Our Student Achievement Guarantee***

**Our Excellence for All Plan guarantees that within our first mandate 75% of our students meet or exceed the provincial standard on province-wide tests.**

The Harris-Eves government has measured student failure. They have done nothing to promote student success or improve achievement.

We can do better. And we can help our children do better.

Substantial improvement will not come easily, or without costs. It will require cooperation between the government, educators, school boards and parents, real increases in funding support to schools, and innovative programs.

We will take responsibility for measurable improvement in education. That's our promise, and we will keep it.

### **The Dismal Tory Record on Student Achievement**

- **Next to no improvement in Grade 3 test results** – The percentage of Grade 3 students meeting the provincial standard in province-wide exams has barely budged in four years – from 46% to only 49% in reading and from 49% to only 51% in writing.
- **The same story for Grade 6** – Grade 6 test scores have been little better, nudging from 48% to 55% in reading and from 48% to 53% in writing.

## ***Smaller Classes for JK to Grade 3***

**We will put in place a real cap of 20 students per class in the all-important early grades.**

Students learn more and perform better in smaller classes. Students who begin their education in small classes are less likely to

drop out, more likely to graduate on time, and more likely to take challenging courses in high school.

The Eves classroom is like a lottery: a child may be in a kindergarten class of 22 one year and a Grade One class of 32 the next. Today, there are more than half a million kids in classes of 26 or more.

We do not believe government should gamble with our children's education. We will ensure a maximum class size of 20 in junior kindergarten through Grade Three.

***Daily Reading,  
Writing and Math***

**We will make reading, writing and math mandatory in each teaching day.**

We recognize that our kids need strong reading, writing and math skills to achieve success when they are in school and after they graduate. Schools will be required to devote a set number of hours per day to reading, writing and math so that all Ontario students master the basics.



**Teacher Excellence**

**We will give teachers the tools and the training for excellence.**

We believe high-performing teachers inspire high-performing students. To support our teachers as learners, we will assist them to continue to upgrade their skills and learn from one another.

We will put Teaching Mentors in schools to share their skills with other teachers and coach them. Teaching Mentors will have release time from their teaching responsibilities to provide strong support and guidance for other teachers.

**The Dismal Tory Record on Teachers**

- **Fewer teachers under the Tories** – The Harris-Eves government has left our schools with 15,000 fewer teachers than there would have been under the standards of ten years ago.
- **Firing instead of hiring teachers** – The Harris-Eves government spent \$385 million of taxpayer dollars to fire teachers and other education workers – people who are desperately needed in our schools today.
- **Librarians and specialist teachers are hardest hit** – Since 1997, Ontario schools have lost 26% of teacher-librarians and 22% of physical education teachers.
- **Private tutors for public school students are on the rise** – There has been a 300% increase in private tutoring since 1995.

***Our Children Deserve  
The Best Start*****We will make high quality childcare and education available for our youngest learners.**

Kids begin climbing the ladder of opportunity well before they start school. Brain development in the early years sets a child on a path for success or failure in life.

A child's development is enhanced through good parenting and quality childcare. If we want our kids to aim higher, we have to give them strong support sooner.

Investments in our pre-school children are smart investments: they pay off with better learners, healthier children, more secure families and a more productive economy.



Our Best Start Plan is based on our vision of high-quality early years education and support as a seamless extension of our public education system. Public schools will become our community hubs, with full-day junior and senior kindergarten eventually available for all four and five-year-olds. Schools will also offer childcare and parenting programs, as well as supporting childcare providers in the community.

Building Best Start will take time, but we will transform our vision into reality. The first step, to be taken during our first term in government, will be to improve the quality and affordability of childcare available for our families.



Under our Best Start Plan:

- Fully 75% of all households with children under four will be eligible for assistance with their childcare costs. That works out to 330,000 children whose families will receive support – a 450% increase over today's standard.
- Support levels will be based on income and determined on a sliding scale. A family earning \$25,000 will be eligible for a daily childcare subsidy of \$15, equal to half the cost of care for their child. Those with lower incomes who now receive full subsidies will retain them. A household with income of \$75,000 would still be eligible for daily assistance of \$5 per child.

***Our Best Start Plan is the most ambitious early child development program ever undertaken in the province. This important investment in our future is long overdue.***

### ***Professional Childcare Standards***

**We will enhance the quality of childcare in Ontario by raising professional standards and ensuring that they are met.**

Under Best Start, parents will be entitled to assistance with their childcare costs paid to caregivers who register with the government, undergo a background check and receive ongoing training. This will ensure a steady and significant improvement in the number and quality of childcare providers in the province.

## The Dismal Tory Record on Early Childhood Education

### Early childcare agenda abandoned

The Harris-Eves government received over \$100M from the federal government for early childhood development. **Not a single penny was spent on childcare.** Instead...

- They slashed all grants for new childcare spaces.
- They eliminated mandatory junior kindergarten.
- They downloaded responsibility for childcare subsidies to municipalities – subsidies that were lost when some municipalities could not pay their share.
- They eliminated childcare bursaries for post-secondary students and cancelled childcare support for parents in job training programs.

We will establish a College of Early Childhood Educators that will set standards and help meet the training needs of childcare providers.

We will enhance Family Resource Centres and Early Years Centres to provide childcare and other early years support to both parents and care providers.



**Helping Children  
with Special Needs****We will help the children who need the most help – those with special needs.**

The Harris-Eves education cuts and mismanagement have hit kids with special needs the hardest. Right now, almost 40,000 children with learning difficulties are on waiting lists to be assessed and waiting for the help they need to succeed.

We will streamline the \$50 million assessment process the Harris-Eves government created; it is bloated and inefficient. We will invest the savings in services for kids with special needs. We will let local school professionals, working directly with the parents and children affected, determine who needs special education support.

**Special Education Students Ignored by the Harris-Eves Government**

Ayslynn Booth-Sinden is a Grade 4 student in the Grand Erie District School Board. She has Down's Syndrome.

Ayslynn has thrived the past two years with the help of a dedicated full-time Education Assistant. In June 2002, her family learned that she would lose her Assistant. The reason – government funding cutbacks.

After much pressure from her parents, Ayslynn is receiving half-time assistance for this school year. But this is not enough.

"While she is still in class," says her mother, Sue Sinden, "she is being tolerated, not educated."

### ***Helping Struggling Students***

**We will create a meaningful high school diploma program that combines academic achievement and work preparation for students in danger of dropping out.**

The Harris-Eves approach has abandoned students who are struggling. Students are falling behind or dropping out in high school because there is no curriculum in Grade 9 or Grade 10 for those who are not university or college bound.

#### **The Dismal Tory Record on Curriculum**

##### **Curriculum casualties climbing**

- Under the Harris-Eves 'new' curriculum, 55% of Grade 9 students in applied math failed.
- Over 25% of Grade 9 students failed at least one credit.

We will not allow the talents of our young people to be wasted or their contribution to be lost. We will provide support for struggling students through increased remedial programs and curriculum alternatives suited to the needs of different types of students.

### ***Mandatory Learning to Age 18***

**We will make learning mandatory to age 18.**

In a knowledge-based economy, it no longer makes sense for young people to be allowed to stop learning at the age of 16. Many young people leaving school early may be more engaged and better learners in other settings – whether it is in a training program, an apprenticeship or some other form of on-the-job learning.



We will require that all young people continue their education, either in school or in an approved out-of-school training experience, until they reach 18 years or until they graduate.

We will expand programs for co-op placement and apprenticeships. We will create a stronger, more integrated apprenticeship system that is more accessible to those entering the skilled trades and to prospective employers. And we will promote on-the-job learning in high-demand areas where there are chronic skill shortages.



# better schools for better learning

## **Safe Schools**



**We will make sure our schools are safe so students can concentrate on learning.**

The Harris-Eves government has talked tough on school safety, but they have done nothing to protect our kids. One in four children today will become a victim of bullying. Intruders in schools and other threats to school safety have become all too common in our schools.

Our kids have the right to learn in a safe school. Our Safe Schools Plan includes:

**Anti-bullying programs** that will ensure that students, staff and the school community have the necessary training to implement effective anti-bullying measures. It is time to put an end to bullying in our schools.

**A school safety hotline** for students, parents and concerned citizens to report threats to the safety of our kids and to become informed about school safety initiatives.

**School surveillance cameras** that will allow schools with hard-to-see entrances and hallways to make sure students are safe from intruders.

## **Character Education**

**We will help our schools develop good citizens through character education.**

Education is about more than reading, writing and creating good workers. We believe excellent public education should also develop good, well-rounded citizens.

Character education is about schools reinforcing values shared by the school community; values such as respect, honesty, responsibility and fairness. It is not about government imposing a set of moral standards. We will encourage and enable each school community – parents, educators, students – to make their values part of the curriculum.

### **Character Education: An Ontario Success Story**

In 2000, the York Region District School Board set out to establish a Character Education program for all secondary schools. Community representatives, religious leaders, business, police, students and parents identified 10 key “character attributes” – respect, responsibility, honesty, empathy, fairness, initiative, perseverance, integrity, courage and optimism.

Teaching these attributes is integrated into the curriculum. Students speak and write about them. Awards are given for displaying them. Teachers take time to illustrate and reinforce these values and behaviours.

The results are very promising. The York Region program has been studied by schools and boards, locally and internationally, and is a model that many want to emulate.

### ***Creating Well-Rounded Students***



### **We believe that learning goes beyond the basics.**

Education must challenge and inspire our kids. It must offer all students the opportunity to experience a full range of learning that includes music, art and drama, as well as sports and other extracurricular activities.

These are not frills. These are essential parts of a well-rounded education.

**Lighthouse Program**

**We will create a Lighthouse Program so that successful school programs can be shared.**

Many Ontario schools have developed innovative, excellent programs for their students. We want to help those schools share their successful ideas with other schools. Our Lighthouse Program will provide the resources to make success contagious.

**A Lighthouse Program in the Making**

St. James Catholic High School in Guelph has increased student participation in physical education courses from 20% of the student body to over 60% in just five years. Steve Freisen, head of phys-ed and athletics at the school, made this change happen by taking an innovative approach to educating students in healthy lifestyles.

The school now houses a fitness centre where all students, regardless of their athletic ability, can workout. Participation in intramural sports at lunchtime has jumped from 30 students to 300.

This is an example from which other schools can learn. Under our Lighthouse Program, they will.

**Turnaround Teams**

**We will not allow any school to fail our kids.**

We will monitor school performance to be sure they are making the grade. We will set fair and clear provincial standards for schools and inspect both schools and school boards to ensure these standards are being met. When schools are working, we will stay out of the way. If there are problems, we will intervene.

A “turnaround team” of experienced teachers and administrators will be sent to any school that is not measuring up, to help the school reach the standards of achievement and quality of education that students and their parents expect and deserve.

We will not punish our struggling schools. We will help them get back on track.

### ***Public School Choice***

**We will offer public school choice so that parents can decide which public school is right for their children.**

Unlike the Harris-Eves government, we do not believe in vouchers or charter schools or private school tax credits – anything that would drain much-needed resources and talent from the public school system.

But we do believe that parents should have the choice to send their children to any publicly funded school, even if it is not in their neighbourhood. Our plan for public school choice opens the door to greater innovation and a diversity of school programs.



# working together

## **Respect for Teachers**



**We will treat our teachers with the professional respect they deserve.**

After parents, teachers are the most important influence in the lives of our children. We greatly value teachers and the vital role they play in helping our children grow up to become responsible, well-educated adults.

We believe our teachers are professionals and should be treated as professionals. We want them to be highly qualified, highly trained and highly valued.

The Harris-Eves government has shown nothing but contempt for teachers. Not surprisingly, teachers are demoralized and leaving the profession in record numbers.

We believe that making experienced teachers better at what they do, by providing professional support, makes far more sense than handing them a written test.

## **A Better College of Teachers**

**We will turn the Ontario College of Teachers into a professional body that sets the highest standards for the profession and earns the respect of teachers and parents.**

The College will operate more like other professional organizations, such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Law Society of Upper Canada, and will be comprised mostly of working teachers.

The reformed College will ensure that our teachers meet ongoing training and professional development standards. Our government's job will be to ensure that there are opportunities for professional development, including a mentorship program for new teachers so they can learn from their experienced colleagues.

### **The Dismal Tory Record on Learning Days Lost**

#### **A record number of days lost**

- Our students have lost 24 million learning days over the seven years of Harris-Eves government.
- There have been three times more school days lost under this government than under the last two governments combined.
- 430,000 of our high school students have been deprived of an entire year of extracurricular activities.

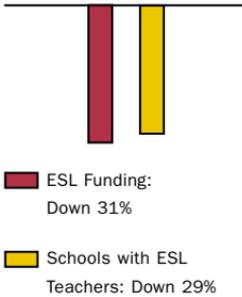
### ***Funding Schools for Success***

**We will not let schools fail because of a flawed funding formula. We will create a fair model to reflect the local needs of diverse communities.**

The Harris-Eves government tries to run 5,000 schools from Queen's Park. They take a one-size-fits-all education funding formula and impose it on every school in the province. It simply does not matter to them that remote northern schools have different needs than large downtown urban schools with a diverse immigrant population.



### The Harris-Eves Record on Support for New Ontario Students



They fail to recognize that in urban areas, with the highest population of immigrants and new Canadians, there is a greater need for English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. They take no notice of the need for older schools to fix or install new equipment. And they ignore the fact that school boards in rural and northern regions need funding that reflects the transportation and other costs of far-flung regions.

We understand that schools in urban, rural, suburban and northern areas have different needs. The funding they receive should reflect the needs of those communities.

Through mismanagement and underfunding of our schools, the Harris-Eves government has set them up for failure. We will set them up for success.

We will make the necessary investment to achieve the ambitious goals set out in this Excellence for All Plan. We will fund our plan by making very different investment decisions than those of the Harris-Eves government.

We will cancel the private school tax credit and redirect up to \$500 million annually to public schools. All funds saved from eliminating Grade 13 will remain in education.

We will use existing resources better, too. Money that has been wasted by the Harris-Eves government on self-promoting ads and inefficient assessment will be returned to the classroom, where it belongs. And we will cancel the \$2.2 billion annual tax giveaway to large corporations and invest that money in essential services like public education.

### ***Accountable School Boards***

**We will ensure that school boards provide strong local accountability and decision-making.**

The main role of school boards is to adapt provincial standards to the needs of students in local communities. We will ensure that they have the resources and the flexibility in spending those resources to respond to local needs.



We will work with boards to support educational innovation in such areas as extra learning, school-based childcare, nutrition programs and school safety.

We will respect and enhance decision-making powers at the school level.

### ***Transparency in Education***

**We will ensure that there is transparency in public education.**

We will end the largest taxation without representation in North America. Taxpayers contribute over \$7 billion to education property taxes, yet the Harris-Eves government determines in secret how that rate is set.

We will establish a Standing Committee on Education to hold public hearings every year on the effectiveness of provincial funding. We will place limits on in-camera school board meetings. We will also give all parents and members of the public the right to information on public education.

### ***Long-Term Funding***

**An Ontario Liberal government will ensure that three-year funding can actually be achieved.**

We will set up a fair mechanism to resolve financial disputes with boards without resorting to expensive and unproductive takeovers.

**Curriculum Council**

**We will establish an independent Curriculum Council to plan and prepare for curriculum changes.**

Under the Harris-Eves government, curriculum change has been badly planned and badly implemented. A study by the District School Board of Niagara in April 2002 summed it up best: *"[The] new curriculum, while itself a necessary change, was hurriedly put together, poorly planned, implemented in an unworkable fashion and grossly under-funded. The results show... that students are frustrated beyond belief, parents have disengaged, teachers are overworked and continue to feel unappreciated, books are scarce and resources are few."*

Our independent Curriculum Council will be composed of parents, teachers, board representatives and education experts. This Council will have real decision-making authority to plan and implement intelligent curriculum changes.



# you have a choice

**A choice between five more years of Ernie Eves' Tories tearing our schools down or Dalton McGuinty's Liberals building them up.**

**Between having the best public education for all our kids or private education for those who can afford to pay.**

**Between schools that are doomed to fail or schools that are primed for success.**

**Choose opportunity. Choose excellence.**



For more information visit  
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Disponible en français



**2**  
STRONG  
COMMUNITIES

# growing strong communities

**THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN FOR  
CLEAN, SAFE COMMUNITIES THAT WORK**





**The strength of our province depends on the strength of our communities. Yet Ontario's communities are not all they can be. They are not all they should be.**

**The Harris-Eves government has failed to provide people with the quality of life they expect and deserve, the quality of life that should come with living in a province this rich and diverse.**

**The air we breathe is dangerous, and many Ontarians do not trust their water.**

**Working parents spend endless hours in their cars instead of home with their families.**

**Too much farmland and greenspace is being lost to development that threatens our quality of life.**

**Our streets are not as safe as they should be.**

**Communities cannot thrive if they struggle to meet the basic needs of our citizens. And they cannot thrive without healthy businesses. Our cities and towns will only attract and retain jobs if they are appealing places to live, as well as work.**

**This is our plan to strengthen Ontario communities and to help them thrive. We will clean up our air and water. We will protect our greenspaces, and make our streets safer.**

**We know that the key to building strong communities is to recognize their differences and build on their strengths. We won't impose urban solutions on rural areas, or vice versa.**

**Join me in forming a government dedicated to improving the quality of life in all the communities that make this province great.**

**Our communities deserve it. Our future depends on it.**



**Dalton McGuinty**

**Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party**



***The Harris-Eves government has spent seven years eroding the foundations of our communities. It has helped its friends and backers at the expense of the rest of us and the communities in which we live.***



The Harris-Eves government allowed polluters to run roughshod over the rules and regulations that are supposed to protect this province. Ontarians worry that their water is not safe and they know the air is so dirty it kills. **We will clean up our air, protect our water and crack down on polluters.**

The Harris-Eves government welcomed urban sprawl, accepting gridlock as a fact of life and greenspace as yesterday's luxury. **We will put quality of life first by tackling gridlock, containing sprawl and preserving greenspace.**

The Harris-Eves government betrayed tenants by gutting rent controls and abandoned our poorest families by refusing to support affordable housing. **We will provide real protection for tenants and invest in affordable housing.**

The Harris-Eves government spent seven years talking tough on crime but doing little about it. **We will do more than talk. We will build safe communities, with more police and more prosecutors.**

# clean communities

***Instead of protecting the environment, the Harris-Eves government has given us dirty air, tainted water and hazardous waste. Ontarians deserve to live and work in communities where the environment contributes to our health and quality of life, not threatens them.***

## ***Air we can breathe***

### ***No more coal***

**We will shut down Ontario's coal burning power plants by 2007 and replace them with cleaner sources of energy.**

It is hard to believe, but at the beginning of the 21st century we still burn coal, the dirtiest way to generate electricity. Our five coal burning plants are the worst polluters in Ontario. They create smog and threaten our health.

***Asthma is the most common reason for admitting children to Ontario hospitals. Polluted air is a major cause of this epidemic.***

We think our most vulnerable citizens – seniors and children – should be able to go outside in summer without consulting a smog index.

### **The Harris-Eves Record**

- There was a month of smog in Ontario in 2002 – a record 27 days. That compares to 11 smog days in 1995.
- Smog kills 1,900 Ontarians every year.
- The Nanticoke power station is the dirtiest in North America, generating the pollution equivalent of 3.5 million cars every year.

**Clean, renewable energy**



**We will bring clean, renewable energy to Ontario.**

We will require that Ontario electricity suppliers obtain at least five percent of their electricity from new clean, renewable sources by 2007 and 10 percent by 2010.

We will expand power generation at Niagara Falls, creating enough new, clean electricity to power every home in a city the size of Hamilton.

The days of burning coal will soon be behind us. We will move to clean alternatives to coal like natural gas, and exciting renewable sources like hydro, wind and landfill methane. This will increase supply, open up new markets and create thousands of new clean energy jobs.

**Green is Good for Business: An Ontario Success Story**

Interface Flooring Systems of Belleville is the largest commercial carpet manufacturer in Canada. Since 1995, it has reduced its electricity consumption by 70% and cut its water intake by an unbelievable 98%.

The company has committed to switching completely to green electricity and has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 65%.

These measures have saved the company \$12 million since 1995 and production has more than doubled.

Interface is proof that “green thinking” is not just good for the environment, it is good for business.

**Reducing electricity costs**

**We will help Ontario homes and businesses reduce their costs and cut their electricity consumption five percent by 2007.**

Individual metering technology can help businesses and households dramatically

reduce their electricity costs by allowing them to monitor and manage their consumption. We will give consumers access to this technology so that they can use electricity when rates are lowest.

Industrial cogeneration is an effective way to reduce the consumption of electricity from the public grid. Cogeneration uses by-products of industry such as steam to generate electricity.

We will encourage businesses to use cogeneration by ensuring that they have reliable backup electricity and fair access to sell any surplus into the system. This will increase our electricity supply, reduce demand, and create environmentally-friendly electricity.

We will lead by example, reducing the Ontario government's own electricity use 10 percent by 2007.

***Our Clean Air Plan alone will take Ontario three-quarters of the way towards satisfying our responsibilities under the Kyoto Accord.***

### ***Clean fuel***

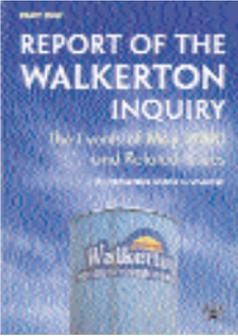
#### **We will clean up gasoline and diesel fuel.**

Ethanol and bio-diesel fuels are made from agricultural products grown in Ontario such as corn and soybeans. They are much friendlier to the environment than regular gasoline and diesel.

We will require that ethanol make up five percent of gasoline by 2007 and 10 percent by 2010. We will also develop an Ontario Bio-Diesel Strategy that will include mandatory bio-diesel content in diesel fuel.

## **Water we can trust**

### **Implementing the Walkerton report**



### **We will prevent any future tainted-water tragedies.**

Seven people died and 2,300 were made seriously ill after drinking tainted water in Walkerton. The Walkerton Inquiry found that the Harris-Eves government's reckless cuts to environmental protection contributed to that tragedy. Two years later, the government is still not doing enough to protect our water.

One of the basic responsibilities of government is to protect our drinking water. After seven years of neglect, it is time to get it right.

Unlike the Harris-Eves government, we will implement every recommendation of the Walkerton Inquiry.

We will build a network of water monitoring stations across the province and make reports available online.

### **The Harris-Eves Record**

- As Finance Minister, Ernie Eves cut the Environment Ministry's budget nearly in half.
- In 1995, Ontario had 730 provincial water monitoring stations. Today there are only 240.
- Two years after Walkerton, Ontario's environmental watchdog, the Environmental Commissioner, warned the monitoring problem "may be worse than ever."

### ***Drinking water source protection***

**We will protect our water from stream to tap by preventing it from getting polluted in the first place.**

The best way to ensure clean drinking water is to prevent it from getting polluted. We will pass a law to enhance protection of the lands that surround our vital water sources.

Incredibly, the Harris-Eves government allows the spreading of untreated human waste on our farmlands. This threatens our drinking water. We will immediately ban the spreading of raw human waste.

### ***Preserving water supplies***



**We will stop allowing companies to raid our precious water supplies.**

Companies that want to take oil from the ground or trees from the forest have to pay for that privilege. The quantity of resource they can extract or harvest is regulated in line with provincial needs and environmental protection.

But when companies want to bottle our water or export it as part of other products, the Harris-Eves government gives it to them free and without any consideration of impact on the local aquifer.

One company alone wants to ship more water out of Ontario annually in the form of industrial slurry than the entire country exports in all beverages.

We will end this reckless giveaway.

Before we issue a single new water-taking permit, we will review Ontario's groundwater supplies. Once we are sure we have enough for ourselves, we will make water-bottling companies and others who mix water with their exports pay for this precious resource.

### **Youth Corps**

**We will involve young people in preserving our environment.**

We will establish an Environmental Youth Corps to create summer jobs for young people in areas like water testing, protecting natural habitats and working with energy providers to conduct home energy audits.

## **A cleaner Ontario**

### **Cracking down on pollution**

**We will protect Ontario from pollution and hazardous waste.**

The Harris-Eves government turned our province into a haven for polluters. They weakened our laws, and opened our doors to hazardous waste and fired inspection and enforcement officers.

**The Sierra Legal Defense Fund documented more than 10,000 violations of Ontario's water pollution laws between 1995 and 1999. The Harris-Eves government laid only 11 charges.**

We will end this sorry record of neglect. We will prosecute and fine polluters and we will make this province's hazardous waste disposal rules the toughest in North America.

**Recycling  
organic waste****We will divert 60 percent of waste from  
landfills within five years.**

Organic waste is a resource, not garbage. We will phase in a ban on organic waste in our landfills, diverting it instead to environmentally-friendly compost.

We will increase provincial and industry support for waste diversion programs, helping municipalities achieve a 60 percent waste diversion rate within five years.

**The Harris-Eves Record**

- Since 1995, Ontario has seen the largest increase in pollution in North America.
- Ontario is now the third worst polluting jurisdiction on the continent.
- Ontario imports of hazardous waste from the U.S. have quadrupled since 1995.



# communities that work

***Ontario is a vast province, made up of communities of every shape and size. For our cities and towns to thrive, their different needs must be recognized and met. The Harris-Eves government has downloaded responsibilities, ignored local requirements and abandoned citizens with basic needs like affordable housing.***

## ***Diversity is our strength***

### ***New Canadians***

**We will help new Canadians to settle more quickly in Ontario.**



The diverse cultures that make up Ontario enrich our communities and strengthen our economy. However, new Canadians are waiting too long to become what they so desperately want to be: successful, contributing citizens. This is unacceptable. We will accelerate the integration of immigrants into our province.

We will negotiate an agreement with the federal government to better support, appropriate settlement services and language integration for immigrants.

We will also work with community-based organizations to assist new Canadians. We will help them make the transition to life in Ontario as easily and quickly as possible.

***Access to trades and professions*****We will ensure timely access to trades and professions for qualified professionals trained outside Canada.**

Newcomers face too many barriers that prevent them from practicing their trade or profession. We will require that all Ontario trades and professions accelerate the entry of qualified new Canadians. If after one year any profession or trade has not eliminated barriers to entry, we will act.

In short, access to trades by foreign professionals is an economic priority for us. For diverse communities to work, new Canadians must get a seat at the table of opportunity. We will make that happen.

***Thriving urban communities***

Our cities are growing rapidly. If managed properly, this growth will create vibrant, diverse communities.

The Harris-Eves government has not managed growth – it has encouraged sprawl. The result is traffic gridlock and the loss of precious greenspace that reduces quality of life while adding substantial infrastructure costs for taxpayers.

***Helping municipalities*****We will invest in our cities and towns.**

The Harris-Eves government “solved” many of its problems by downloading them onto cities and towns. The result was cuts to services and crumbling infrastructure. This was unfair, short-sighted and destructive to our communities.

We will help communities become more self-sustaining by giving them the means to invest in their own infrastructure and growth.

We will give two cents per litre of the existing provincial gasoline tax to municipalities for public transit. Fully implemented, this will generate an initial \$312 million per year, an amount that will grow with the economy.

The federal government must also do its part to meet the needs of Ontario communities. We will demand that the federal government match our commitment on gas tax funding and invest directly in major infrastructure projects.

In keeping with their request, we will give municipalities the option to place up to a three percent visitors' levy on hotel room bills. This will yield potential revenues of up to \$75 million per year for promotion and development of tourism.

### ***Affordable housing***

#### **We will get more Ontarians into affordable housing.**



The Harris-Eves government abandoned families in need of affordable housing. In seven years, they have not built a single unit. They gutted rent controls, dumped responsibility for social housing onto municipalities who could not afford it and refused to participate in a joint federal-provincial housing program.

We believe that the provincial government has a responsibility to help provide affordable housing.

We will match federal support to create almost 20,000 new housing units for needy Ontario families.

We will give priority to the development of affordable housing on Ontario government-owned lands.

We will establish the Ontario Mortgage and Housing Partnership to provide competitive financing rates for non-profit, co-operative and commercial developers who want to build rental housing in Ontario.

#### Options for Homes: An Ontario Success Story

Mike Labbe is the creator and founder of *Options for Homes*, a private, non-profit company that makes home ownership affordable for moderate and low-income Ontarians. Labbe has built condominiums and town homes without the “frills”, such as saunas, pools, or model suites that can make the price of a home skyrocket.

*Options for Homes* has built over 460 units in sturdy, attractive buildings with the basic necessities that a family needs and has sold units to families with incomes as low as \$16,000 – all without any government subsidy.

#### ***Helping those most in need***

**We will provide direct assistance to the families in greatest need of housing help through a housing allowance program.**

The fastest and most efficient way to help families who need affordable housing the most is to provide a direct housing allowance payment. This will allow a needy family to keep their existing home at a cost they can afford or find suitable accommodation in the rental market.

The Harris-Eves government promised a housing allowance program in 1995. Ontario families are still waiting.

We will establish a housing allowance for low-income families, as recommended in the Golden Report. It will provide direct, immediate housing relief for 35,000 families.

### **Rent control**



#### **We will provide real protection for tenants.**

We will introduce real protection for tenants from excessive rent increases.

In our first year of government, we will repeal the misnamed Tenant Protection Act and replace it with an effective tenant protection law. Our law will protect tenants by making unfair rent increases illegal and by encouraging the construction of more rental units to reduce upward pressure on rents.

We will ensure that municipalities with low vacancy rates have the right to protect existing rental housing from unreasonable demolition or conversion to condominiums.

Short-term arrears is the most common reason tenants lose their apartments and end up in shelters. Illness, loss of a job or a family emergency can result in a missed rent payment and an eviction notice.

We will establish a Provincial Rent Bank to help tenants with short-term arrears so that they can keep their homes.

**More public transit****We will invest in public transit across the province.**

Public transit reduces pollution, commuting times and gridlock. By allocating two cents of the existing provincial gas tax to municipalities, we will double the existing provincial investment in public transit.

Working with the federal government, we will make transit passes a non-taxable benefit, so people who receive passes from their employers will no longer have to pay taxes on this benefit.

**Controlling development****We will ensure that all developers play by the rules.**

The Ontario Municipal Board is supposed to ensure that developers follow provincial policies in areas such as greenlands preservation, rural protection and affordable housing.

Under the Harris-Eves government, the OMB consistently overruled democratically elected local officials, giving the go-ahead to projects that made sense only to the developers.

**The Harris-Eves Record**

- In the past five years, municipalities in the GTA spent more than \$20 million fighting OMB decisions.
- The township of Uxbridge had to raise property taxes just to pay the legal fees it incurred while fighting a developer at the OMB.

***Protecting  
greenspace***

We will give the OMB clear planning rules to ensure that it follows provincial policies. We will prevent developers from forcing unwanted municipal expansion and we will give municipalities more time to consider development applications.

***We will protect one million new acres of greenspace on the outskirts of our cities.***

Families should not have to drive ever-increasing distances to experience the countryside. We will ensure that future generations have greenspace to enjoy close to our urban and suburban centres.

To permanently protect these lands from development, we will use a wide array of creative solutions, including tax credits, easements, land trusts, land swaps and new park designations. To this end, we will work closely with conservation authorities, nature organizations, farmers, municipalities and private landowners.

Over the course of 20 years, our plan will call for the accumulation of one million acres of protected greenspace and farmland.

***Long-term growth for the Golden Horseshoe***

The Golden Horseshoe, from Niagara Falls to Oshawa, grows by more than 115,000 people every year. Within 15 years, it will be the third-largest urban region in North America, after only New York and Los Angeles.

We will manage this growth in a way that encourages quality of life for all. That means

repairing the damage done by the Harris-Eves government and planning sensibly for the future.

### ***Managing growth***

**We will manage long-term growth in the Golden Horseshoe.**

We know the difference between well-managed growth and sprawl.

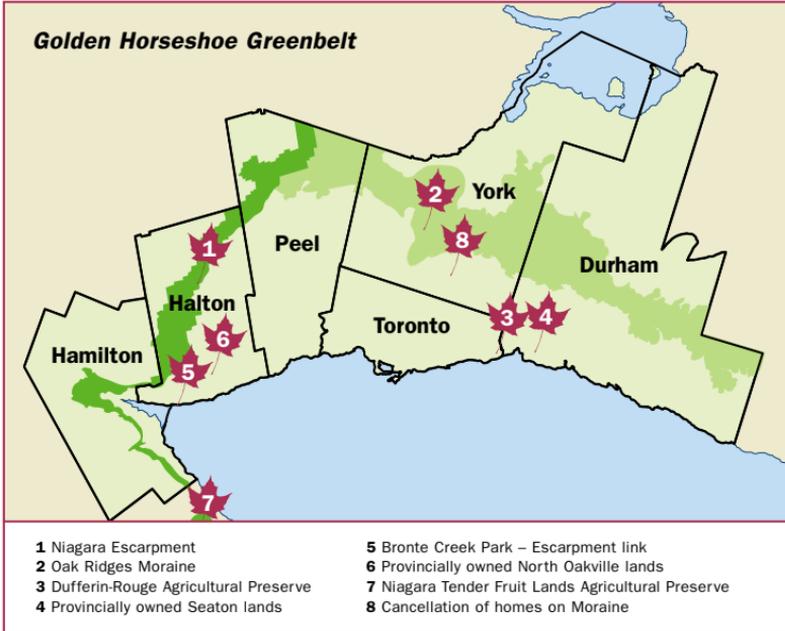
We will develop a long-term plan for managing growth responsibly in the Golden Horseshoe. It will take into account expected population growth and infrastructure needs, without developing areas that provide our food, water and recreation.

### ***Permanent greenbelt***

**We will protect the greenspace that surrounds our cities, forever.**

The lands most threatened in Ontario today are the lands right on the edge of the Golden Horseshoe's developed areas. We will enhance our quality of life by containing sprawl and focusing growth inside a permanent GTA greenbelt.





This greenbelt will permanently protect more than 600,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land and farmland, from Niagara Falls to Lake Scugog.

We will start by giving real long-term protection to the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Eves government secretly approved a plan to build 6,600 new homes on one of the most sensitive spots on the Moraine in Richmond Hill. We will stop their construction.

We will establish an independent Greenbelt Commission that will be given authority over the Moraine, as well as responsibility for developing a Greenbelt protection plan.

We will build a GTA Greenbelt by linking the lands already protected on the Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine and add important new areas, such as the Dufferin-Rouge Agricultural Preserve, a Bronte Provincial Park-Escarpment corridor and two-thirds of the provincially-owned Seaton Lands.

Pending a final decision on the lands to be protected, we will place a moratorium on zoning changes from rural to urban on all lands within the Greenbelt areas.

Beyond the GTA, other key areas in the Golden Horseshoe will be designated for similar protection. The first of these reserves will be a new Niagara Tender Fruit Lands Agriculture Preserve to enhance the wine, fruit and tourism industries of this area.

### ***No to sprawl***

**We will manage growth by encouraging good development and discouraging sprawl.**

The Harris-Eves government subsidized sprawl. It gave the green light to developments communities did not always want, frequently could not sustain and often regreted.

If development continues at the rate sanctioned by the Harris-Eves government, an area twice the size of Toronto will be paved within the next 30 years.

We will build only where it makes sense to build, and we will stop subsidizing sprawl.

We will provide infrastructure funding to priority growth areas like our city centres and urban nodes, rather than new sprawl developments. In other areas, we will make sure developers absorb their fair share of the costs of new growth.

Instead of subsidizing sprawl, we will develop our brownfields – thousands of acres of vacant industrial lots and derelict port lands in city centres. We will work with developers to get projects on these priority sites off the drawing board and into construction.

We will change the Land Transfer Tax Rebate Program to encourage people to buy homes in priority growth areas. All purchasers of newly-built homes will be eligible where the homes are part of urban or suburban intensification.

### ***Breaking gridlock***



**We will ease gridlock with a seamless transportation network across the GTA.**

Anyone who has driven in the GTA knows the region has a serious gridlock problem. Hours spent on the road keep families apart and slow down our just-in-time economy.

Easing gridlock will require region-wide transportation planning that balances investment in public transit, roads and rail.

***Toronto is already 40 percent paved. Los Angeles, with the worst traffic in the U.S, is 60 percent paved.***

We will bring a region-wide approach to identifying and meeting GTA transit needs, by creating the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority (GTTA).

**The Harris-Eves Record**

- The Harris-Eves government eliminated all provincial support for public transit in 1998.
- A study by York region found that over the past five years, commuting times have increased by 50-60%.
- Without major changes, by 2011, a trip from downtown Toronto to the edge of the city will take an estimated 70 minutes.
- Gridlock costs the GTA two billion dollars per year in lost productivity.

The new GTTA will be given the clout and resources to tackle gridlock and ensure free movement of people and goods in a rapidly-growing region.

The GTTA will be given the mandate to move on immediate priorities, including establishing within 18 months a seamless, integrated ticket system to allow users to move easily across the region using a single ticket.

The GTAA's first priority will be to repair the damage from years of neglect by the Harris-Eves government: more GO trains on existing lines, expanded GO parking, new vehicles for the TTC and the removal of highway bottlenecks.



***The right roads***

**We will build the right roads to the right places.**

Easing gridlock requires highway improvement and highway expansion as well as major transit support. But building the wrong roads can actually make the problems of gridlock and sprawl worse.

The GTAA will review road and highway expenditure plans to ensure that they aid the goals of well-managed growth and the efficient movement of goods and people.

**Lessons from Portland**

In the 1970's, community leaders in Portland, Oregon, decided to take action on urban sprawl and gridlock by promoting public transit and sensible growth management. Today, Portland is a model of smart development and community liveability. For example:

- Portland's population has grown by 50% since 1973, but the city's land area has only increased by 2%.
- Portland's air quality has consistently improved over the past nine years, dropping from 11 bad air days in 1990 to only two in 1999.
- Portland's transit ridership increased 51% between 1990 and 1999. It is one of only two regions in the U.S. where transit growth outpaced growth in vehicle miles driven.

# safe communities

***In seven years, the Harris-Eves government's main contribution to fighting crime has been making the world safe from squeegee kids. We know there are more serious problems that need our attention. Ontario families have the right to feel safe; they have the right to BE safe. That means supporting our police, fire fighters, prosecutors and those who administer our justice and corrections systems.***

## **Getting tough on crime**

### **More police on the street**

**We will put 1,000 more cops on the street.**

The number of police officers per capita in Ontario has dropped more than eight percent in the past 10 years. We need more police officers to keep our communities safe. Over the next four years, we will put 1,000 new police officers on the street, specifically for community policing.

### **Better intelligence**

**We will give additional resources to Ontario's police intelligence services.**

The number of dangerous biker gangs in Ontario is increasing, the illegal drug industry is thriving and threats to our communities from organized crime and street gangs are growing.



Our police forces need the resources to track organized crime activities and keep communities safe. We will provide additional support for police intelligence services to ensure that our various police forces can work together to protect all Ontarians.

***Halting hate crimes***

**We will expand the number of hate crime units in the province.**

Since 1996, there has been a 93 percent increase in the number of hate crimes in Ontario. We will stand up for all Ontarians, and we will not tolerate hate crimes.

We will provide support for dedicated hate crime units across the province.

***More prosecutors***

**We will put more prosecutors in our courts.**

Catching criminals will do little good if we cannot prosecute them. Huge courtroom backlogs delay and sometimes deny justice.

We will hire 50 new prosecutors to focus on the most serious cases.

***Firm but fair***

**We will take a firm but fair approach with young offenders.**

Letting young offenders off lightly only encourages more crime down the road. Treating them as if they are hardened adult criminals, without any attempt at guidance and rehabilitation, has the same result.

We will exercise Ontario's right under the Criminal Code to transfer dangerous young offenders to adult court and we will demand that the federal government identify dangerous young offenders who pose a threat to their communities.

We will find community-based punishment alternatives to prison for first-time young offenders charged with minor offences.

***Parole and probation officers***

**We will hire 100 new parole/probation officers to help protect the public.**

The national average caseload for parole and probation officers is one officer for every 70 offenders. In Ontario today, officers handle an average of 121 offenders.

This overwhelming caseload is putting the public at risk. We will hire an additional 100 officers to reduce caseloads and better protect Ontarians.

***Cyberproofing our kids***

**We will protect our kids against the dangers of Internet stalkers.**



Police tell us that pedophiles and other criminals increasingly use the Internet to prey on children.

The Internet is an essential educational tool for children. But too many are not aware of its risks. Of Canadian children who regularly visit Internet chat rooms, 23 percent subsequently meet with strangers after contacting them on-line.

#### **Protecting Kids: An Ontario Success Story**

The Peel Regional Internet Safety Committee is working hard to protect kids in the community from Internet stalkers. A program called “Cyberproofed?” is being taught by teachers and police officers to all Peel Region students between grades three and 10. That is more than 100,000 kids being taught how to stay safe on the Internet.

We will ensure that Ontario children are educated in Internet safety.

### ***Giving victims real rights***

#### ***Rights for victims***

**We will give real legal rights to victims of crime.**

The Harris-Eves government failed victims of crime by refusing to give them statutory rights. We will pass strong Victims’ Rights Legislation that ensures victims have access to information and services. We will also make it easier for victims of crime to attend court by making it their legal right to get time off work to do so.

### **Confronting domestic violence**



### **We will protect victims of domestic violence.**

Domestic violence is on the rise in Ontario. The number of Ontario women killed by their partners is increasing. There is not enough second-stage housing where women and their children can be safe from their abusers. Abusive partners make bail too easily, allowing them to re-offend.

The Harris-Eves government has done very little about any of this.

We will do more to protect women and children who are threatened by domestic violence. We will increase support for second-stage housing, giving women a safe place where they can receive support and counseling.

We will work to amend the Criminal Code of Canada to make it more difficult for those arrested for domestic violence to make bail. We will ensure that police conduct risk assessments of accused abusers on their first charge.

#### **The Harris-Eves Record**

- Approximately 40 women are killed by their partners in Ontario every year.
- The Harris-Eves government eliminated funding for counseling and support programs in second-stage housing.
- At one shelter alone, more than 1,000 women and children were turned away in 2000.

We will direct all Crown attorneys to review risk assessments before bail hearings and demand that monitoring devices be used in appropriate cases. We will strongly oppose further release of accused abusers who violate bail conditions.

***Cracking down on deadbeats***

**We will crack down on deadbeat parents and make them pay up.**

Withholding family support payments is a serious crime. It makes the lives of single parents even tougher, and it hurts our kids. We will not watch children suffer while deadbeat parents shirk their responsibilities.

***Deadbeat parents in Ontario owe more than \$1 billion to their partners and children.***

We will use innovative new techniques, such as Internet tracking, to find deadbeats and recover the money they owe.

We will pursue aggressive enforcement measures such as suspending driver's licenses for anyone missing two or more support payments.

**Tracking Down Deadbeats**

Alberta has enjoyed remarkable success in a pilot project using the Internet to track down deadbeat parents. Of the delinquent fathers and mothers whose names and pictures were posted on the website, 63% were found. They represented more than \$1 million in child maintenance payments.

### **Countering sexual assault**



### **We will help protect women from sexual assault.**

We will increase support to sexual assault networks for awareness programs and campaigns related to new threats like date rape drugs.

We will also help sexual assault centres, hospitals and family doctors provide date rape drug testing to women who have been assaulted. Better access to these tests will encourage more women to report assault to the police.

### **Supporting our fire fighters**

#### **Fire safety**

### **We will equip our fire fighters with new safety technology.**

Often the first to respond to an emergency, Ontario's fire fighters have a vital and dangerous job. We need to be sure that our fire services are equipped to keep the public, and themselves, as safe as possible when responding to fire calls.

We will help our fire services purchase state-of-the-art thermal imaging equipment. This technology permits firefighters to locate victims in smoke and darkness within seconds.

We will give Ontario citizens, including our police and fire fighters, the right to know what hazardous materials are stored in their communities.

These investments will save lives.

# you have a choice

**A choice between five more years of a government that fails Ontario communities or a government that builds clean, safe communities that work.**

**Between a government that turns its back on the environment or one that will stand up for clean air and protect our water.**

**Between a government that creates sprawl and gridlock or a government that puts communities first.**

**Between a government that talks tough on crime or one that does something about it.**

**Choose leadership that works for you... for a change.**

**Choose Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberals.**



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# achieving our potential

**THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN FOR  
ECONOMIC GROWTH**





**January 2003**

**Ontario can and should be the best place in North America to build a business and raise a family.**

**We have endless possibilities within our grasp. Our pool of talent is deep and unmatched in its diversity. Our communities should be hotbeds of innovation. This province should be a magnet for international investment.**

**Everything is in place, except the plan to bring it all together and the leadership to make it happen.**

**At a time when all of North America experienced record growth, the Harris-Eves government squandered the chance to invest in our future prosperity.**

**They created chaos in the education system, longer waiting lists for health care, traffic gridlock, smog-filled air and dirty water. Their legacy has reduced our quality of life and diminished our ability to attract new investment. After eight years of the Harris-Eves government, our productivity lags far behind our competitors.**

**Ontario can and must do better.**

**We have a plan for economic growth that will improve our productivity and increase our prosperity. It will help to build an Ontario that offers better jobs and a higher quality of life for everyone.**

**We have a four-point plan to:**

- **Run a tight ship by better managing your hard-earned tax dollars and strengthening public services.**
- **Build the best workforce in North America.**
- **Build a more innovative economy, one that encourages the growth of new ideas and businesses.**
- **Build a truly global Ontario that trades and competes with the best in the world.**

**Together, we will build an Ontario economy that is the envy of the world with a quality of life second to none.**



**Dalton McGuinty**

**Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party**

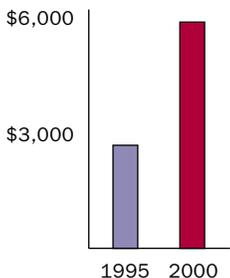


## Achieving our potential

Ontario is a province with extraordinary potential.

We have a wealth of natural and human resources. Our diverse population has ties to every corner of the globe. We have a tradition of building outstanding institutions for health and education. And we have one of the most talented workforces in the world.

**Productivity Gap – Ontario vs. the U.S.**



Despite these advantages, we are not doing nearly as well as we could. The productivity gap between Ontario and the U.S. has doubled under the Harris-Eves government.

We can do much better.

You have worked hard, paid your taxes, created jobs and grown the economy. You have kept your part of the bargain. Now it is time for a government that keeps theirs.

Despite seven years of strong growth, the Harris-Eves government added over \$21 billion to the debt. They had a chance to invest in our future prosperity and they squandered it on tax cuts paid for with borrowed money, costly consulting contracts and bad management of government. **We will balance the budget, keep taxes down, manage prudently and invest in higher productivity and a better quality of life.**

The Harris-Eves government cut taxes at the expense of investment in the skills of our people. Any province or state can match our tax rates, but none can match our talent.

**We will invest in our colleges and universities, leverage our diverse population into an economic advantage and keep our people learning and earning for life.**

The Harris-Eves government did little to encourage the innovative industries and companies that fuel growth and create good, well-paying jobs. **We will support our key business clusters with smart investments in strong, sustainable growth.**

The Harris-Eves government failed to strengthen the infrastructure that supports our trade. They did nothing to expand our non-U.S. trade and attract our share of international investment. **We will build on our U.S. trade ties, open new global markets and aggressively pursue foreign direct investment.**



# running a tight ship

***No government has ever spent more of your hard-earned tax dollars and given you less in return than the Harris-Eves administration. Ontarians deserve a government that will manage your money wisely while strengthening essential public services.***

## **The Harris-Eves Record: Mismanagement and Waste**

- Sold Highway 407 for a fraction of its value and then stuck motorists with skyrocketing tolls.
- Spent \$662 million on private consultants last year alone.
- Wasted more than \$250 million on partisan government ads.
- More than doubled spending in the Premier's Cabinet Offices since 1995.

The Harris-Eves government added over \$21 billion to the debt, costing us \$1.6 billion in interest every year. They were the second last government in Canada to balance their budget. Only the NDP in British Columbia took longer. And they failed to restore Ontario's credit rating. The NDP cost us a three-point downgrade and the Harris-Eves government recovered only one of these points.

Ontario deserves a government that will maintain fiscal discipline, manage your hard-earned tax dollars wisely and improve the key public services on which our competitiveness and quality of life depend.

## **Competitive and fair taxes**

***Hold the line on taxes***

***We will give you better value for your money, while keeping taxes down.***

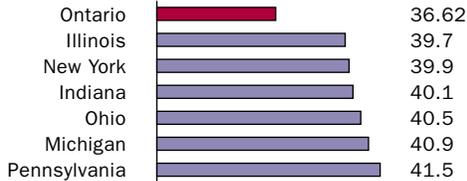
If we are going to close the productivity gap, and improve quality of life for all Ontarians, we must invest now in our future prosperity.

Ontario workers and their families already pay enough. We will hold the line on your taxes.

Corporate taxes are already competitive in Ontario. We will keep them that way. The Harris-Eves plan to lower corporate income taxes 25 percent below our competitors compromises our ability to make investments that increase our productivity.

**Ontario Corporate Tax Rate is Already Competitive**

**Combined federal/provincial or state rates, 2003**



**Balanced budgets**

**We will live by the balanced budget law.**

We support and voted for Ontario's balanced budget law. Unlike the Harris-Eves government, we will not bend the law whenever convenient.

**Debt reduction**

**We will make sure the debt goes in one direction only: down.**

We will not add to the provincial debt. We will pay down the debt as conditions allow, with all surpluses going directly to debt payment.

## Getting results

### **Setting targets**

**We will measure every investment against results.**

We will make your tax dollars work harder. We will tell taxpayers what specific improvements we expect from every new investment. Ineffective programs will be cancelled.

### **More accountability for spending**

**We will give the Provincial Auditor enhanced powers to protect taxpayers.**

The public watchdog should have the right to investigate spending not just by the Ontario government, but its agencies and transfer partners as well. We will provide for the Auditor to do value-for-money audits of institutions and programs in the broader public sector, including the hydro companies.

### **The Harris-Eves Record: Wasteful Spending**

More than \$3.5 billion in annual misspending by the Harris-Eves government:

Corporate Tax Cut:	\$2.2 billion
Private School Voucher:	\$500 million
Failure to Collect Corporate Taxes:	At least \$400 million
Private Consultants:	At least \$400 million
Partisan Government Advertising:	At least \$50 million
Total:	At least \$3.55 billion

# building North America's best workforce

***Our U.S. competitors will always be able to undercut our taxes. Unlike the Harris-Eves government, we choose not to run in that race to the bottom. We choose to reach for the top by developing our single greatest advantage, our people.***

An educated and highly skilled workforce is a competitive advantage in the knowledge economy. The best workers attract the best jobs with the highest pay. We will build the best workforce in North America.

## **The Harris-Eves Record: Workforce Development**

- Cut \$400 million from post-secondary education.
- Allows young people to quit school at age 16.
- Cut adult education spaces by 80%.
- Made apprenticeship training more costly.
- Produced half as many business graduates and M.A.'s, and fewer Ph.D.'s than our U.S. competitors.

Our plan will sharpen our skills and boost our brainpower.

Today, chronic skills shortages hold our economy back; they prevent us from reaching our full potential. We will unleash that potential with an ambitious plan to develop our skills, from early childhood to lifelong learning.



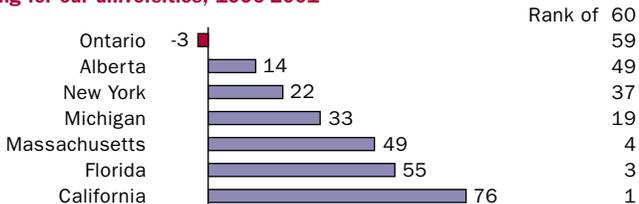
## Higher education, higher productivity

The benefits of higher education are clear: the more you learn, the more you earn. And the more you learn, the more productive Ontario becomes.

Why, then, has the Harris-Eves government allowed us to fall so far behind?

### Underfunding our Universities

**Percent change in state/provincial operating funding for our universities, 1996-2001**



We have a long-term plan to expand capacity in our colleges and universities, make higher education more affordable and enhance the quality of our institutions.

### **Double cohort guarantee**

**We guarantee that no double cohort student will be shut out.**

The Harris-Eves government eliminated Grade 13 and failed to plan for the consequences. Now, as many as 10,000 talented young Ontarians may have their future compromised. We will not let that happen.

***More students learning***

**We will expand our post-secondary capacity by at least 10 percent over five years.**

This will make room for almost 50,000 students. Our colleges and universities will be able to hire more faculty, create more knowledge and educate more Ontarians.

***More faculty teaching***

**We will recruit new faculty for colleges and universities.**

A chronic shortage of professors and instructors has resulted in huge class sizes. Our 10 percent expansion of post-secondary capacity will allow colleges and universities to hire thousands of new faculty members. In addition, we will create a Faculty Recruitment Fund to help our colleges and universities attract up to 800 of the world's best teaching minds.

***Tomorrow's researchers***

**We will invest in the next generation of researchers and professors by increasing graduate scholarships by 50 percent.**

Our graduate students are the researchers and professors of the future. Their research will help create tomorrow's jobs. We will help keep our best young minds here in Ontario.

***Tuition freeze***

**We will immediately freeze college and university tuition for at least two years.**



The Harris-Eves government raised tuition a staggering 45 percent for basic undergraduate programs and allowed tuition to skyrocket in programs such as medicine, law and engineering. We will not let this continue. We will use the two-year freeze to work with students, colleges and universities to create a long-term solution.

**More assistance for students**

**We will improve financial help for students.**

By limiting their access to student assistance, the Harris-Eves government punishes students from middle-income families, students who work to pay for their education and part-time students. We will make the Ontario Student Assistance Plan work for more students by expanding eligibility and increasing loan amounts.

**Pre-paid tuition**

**We will offer a Pre-paid Tuition Program to make it easier for parents to save for their children's education.**

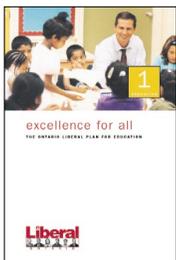
We will reward parents who plan ahead for their children's education by guaranteeing them today's price for tomorrow's education.

**Helping our neediest students**

**We will help Ontario's neediest students with tuition waivers.**

We all lose when a student cannot afford post-secondary education. Our waiver will assist with the tuition cost for the neediest 10 percent of students and help 16,000 students pursue higher education.

**Ontario's Best Workforce Starts with *Excellence for All***



Our plan to create North America's best workforce starts with *Excellence for All*, our public education plan. We will dramatically expand affordable and high-quality early childhood education, cap class size at 20 in the early grades and make learning mandatory until age 18.

### ***Sharper skills for a strong economy***

Learning cannot stop at graduation. In a fast-paced global economy where change is the only constant, sharp skills are the only sure source of job security. Our message to Ontarians is simple: if you want to improve your skills, we want to help.

The Harris-Eves government was too busy fighting with the federal government to partner with them on a skills strategy for Ontario. Ontario is the only province without a Labour Market Development Agreement with the federal government. That means we lose out on directing almost \$600 million a year, and suffer from needless duplication and waste.

Ontarians need and deserve a seamless and efficient 21st century system of skills training. We will negotiate an agreement to make sure they get it.



***Better skills training***

**We will create a Rapid Re-employment and Training Project.**

Our Rapid Re-employment and Training Project will help workers hit by layoffs and plant closures to quickly retrain and find new employment. We cannot afford to have half a million Ontarians sitting on the sidelines.

***Training tax credit***

**We will create an employee training tax credit.**

Training is not just for the unemployed. We will help businesses invest in upgrading the skills of their current workers.

***More apprenticeships***

**We will double the number of our apprentices over five years.**

We are chronically short of skilled trades people. Many young people are not aware of the rewards of being a skilled trades person. We will work with the colleges, private sector and unions to promote the trades in schools and create more learning opportunities for high-demand skills.



### ***Expanding the winners' circle***

Too many people are being prevented from fully participating in our economy. New Ontarians are not being allowed to achieve their potential, welfare recipients face barriers to re-employment and a lack of affordable, quality childcare keeps many parents out of the workforce.

To build a strong economy, we need everyone at their best. That means the opportunity to work and the right to be treated fairly.

#### ***Lowering barriers for new Ontarians***

##### **We will put our brain gain to work.**

No workforce benefits more from immigration than ours. Sixty percent of new Ontarians have post-secondary education and yet thousands face barriers to employment at their skill level. The Harris-Eves government has failed to capitalize on this brain gain. We will harness the skills and expertise of new Ontarians.

***The Conference Board of Canada estimates that Canada could realize a \$4.1 billion to \$5.9 billion increase in annual income if new Canadians were employed to their level of training.***

#### ***Access to trades and professions***

##### **We will lower barriers that prevent foreign-trained professionals and skilled workers from reaching their potential.**

We will work with professional and trade associations to accelerate the entry of skilled new Ontarians into the workforce. Our goal is to eliminate major barriers within one year.

**Affordable childcare**

**We will make sure parents have access to affordable, quality childcare.**

Too many parents who want to work cannot find childcare they can trust and afford. We all lose when this happens. Our *Best Start Plan* will give parents the choice to work and their kids a head start.

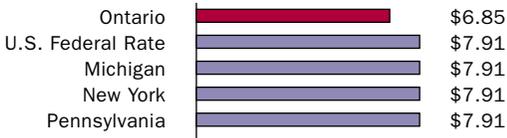
**Fair treatment for workers**

**We will end the Harris-Eves 60-hour work week and raise the minimum wage for the first time since 1995.**

While inflation has risen almost 20 percent since 1995, minimum wage has stayed put. Instead of increasing the minimum wage, the Harris-Eves government lengthened the work week. This is unfair and counter-productive. We cannot expect Ontarians to contribute without reasonable returns. We will increase the minimum wage to \$8 over four years.

**Ontario Lags Behind its Competitors on Wages**

**2003 Minimum wage rates, in Canadian Dollars**



### ***Fixing workfare***

### **We will make workfare work.**

The Harris-Eves version of workfare provides little opportunity for people to get the skills they need to find meaningful, long-term work. We expect people to take responsibility for bettering themselves. In return, we will live up to our responsibility to help them get there. We will help welfare recipients with skills training, childcare and affordable housing.

#### **The Harris-Eves Record: Workfare that Doesn't Work**

Harris-Eves workfare does not:

- Place welfare recipients into long-term jobs/employment.
- Help those who face serious barriers to employment, such as single mothers with young children.
- Improve skills and employability so that recipients can compete in a changing labour market.
- Allow recipients the opportunity to climb out of poverty permanently.



## building a more innovative economy

***Innovation happens when a business uses new ideas to become more competitive. Innovative firms create good, high-paying jobs and drive economic growth in the knowledge economy.***

A cluster is a concentration of key firms. Clusters of smart companies harness synergies from competition and collaboration. These synergies drive the innovation that in turn drives the economy.

Government has a role to play in fueling these key engines of growth. The Harris-Eves government never understood that. For example, by failing to go after new investment at a time when Ontario's competitors have become much more aggressive, they put our critical auto industry at risk.

We understand that one of most important things a government can do to support clusters is to support people.

Our cluster development strategy will focus on key industries that are the source of our economic strength and future growth.



### Some of Ontario's Key Industry Clusters

**Automotive** – Ontario plants produce almost three million cars and trucks every year, second only to Michigan in output.

**Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology** – Ontario is the third-largest biotech region in North America, with thriving biotech clusters in Toronto, London and Ottawa.

**Financial Services** – Ontario's financial services industry ranks third in North America in terms of employment, and its strong global presence relies heavily on the competitiveness of Toronto-based banks, insurance and securities companies.

**Agriculture and Food Processing** – Agriculture and food is Ontario's second biggest industry. Represented in every region of the province, there is a strong concentration in South Western Ontario.

**Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)** – Concentrated in Toronto, Ottawa, Kitchener and Hamilton, this research and development intensive cluster is a major exporter and employs many highly skilled workers.

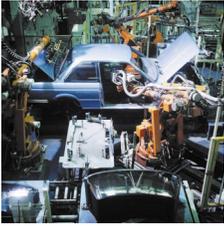
**Entertainment and Culture** – The entertainment cluster accounts for an estimated \$1 billion of the province's economy every year and ranks third in North America in terms of employment.

We will work with industry to grow all of these clusters, starting with our critical automotive sector.

### *Gearing up: a new automotive strategy*

Auto is a vital cluster, responsible for one in six Ontario jobs. Every new assembly plant job creates seven and a half additional jobs with parts and material suppliers and support industries.

The Harris-Eves government neglected the auto industry. The results speak for themselves: we have not attracted a new assembly plant to Ontario in over a decade.



During the same time, 19 plants were located in the U.S. Investment in Mexico doubled. Our competitors won billions in new investment. The Harris-Eves government was not even in the game.

We will be there. Our aggressive investment strategy will keep our most important manufacturing industry prosperous.

Our goal is to maintain our existing industry and secure an increasing share of new auto investment, including new assembly plants. It is essential that we get our share of new investment and branch into new growth areas like research and technology.

### ***Attracting new investment***

**We will create an auto sector strategic investment fund.**

We will work with the industry to create innovative training and investment incentive packages that benefit all Ontarians. This fund will be flexible so we can tailor our efforts to win new investment. Depending on the assembly project, it could apply to infrastructure, training or research.

### ***Training for competitiveness***

**We will create innovative training programs to help workers upgrade their skills.**

We will not allow Ontario to miss out on an investment because we lack the training needed to support it.

***Working as partners***

**We will work with the automotive industry.**

Unlike the Harris-Eves government, we will partner with firms to win investments. We will maintain a solid working relationship with industry, union leaders and CEO's, both in Ontario and at international head offices.

***Understanding the industry***

**We will build automotive expertise in government.**

The auto industry came to Ontario because of smart public policy. The Harris-Eves government undermined our capacity to develop this policy. We will develop in-house auto sector expertise that will support the industry in its efforts to bring jobs and investment to Ontario.

***Sowing the seeds of innovation: globally competitive agriculture and food***

Agriculture and food is Ontario's second largest industry. While many think of it as a traditional industry, it is one of the most innovative sectors of the economy.

Ontario farmers have taken advantage of new technologies and research to better compete globally, even in the face of unfair subsidies to U.S. and European farmers. We will provide farmers with fundamental financial supports and bring all the tools of success together into a competitive growth strategy.

**Farm safety nets**

**We will get the fundamentals right, with a new generation of safety nets and a strong defence of supply management.**

Ontario has the largest, most diversified agricultural industry in Canada. Our farmers need a new generation of safety nets and companion programs that better address the industry's needs. We will work with the federal government to develop these programs and make sure that the federal and provincial financial resources are there to make them work. We will defend the supply management system that has served Ontario farmers and consumers so well.

**Nutrient management assistance**

**We will provide financial assistance to farmers to help offset the cost of new nutrient management rules.**

The Walkerton Report is clear: we need stronger nutrient management rules. We agree. We will bring in clear, comprehensive nutrient management rules to protect our drinking water. But we will ensure that farmers are not left paying the entire bill. All Ontarians will share in the benefits, so we should all help to shoulder the cost.

**Ethanol and biodiesel**

**We will create a major new market for Ontario agricultural products by setting mandatory ethanol and biodiesel content rules for gasoline and diesel.**

We will clean the air, stimulate new investment and job creation in rural Ontario and significantly expand the demand for Ontario corn and soybeans. Ontario gasoline will contain at least five percent clean-burning ethanol by 2007, and 10 percent by 2010.

**Supporting research**

**We will make sure that Ontario stays at the forefront of world innovation in agricultural research and that this research works to help Ontario farmers.**

We will work with the newly created Ontario Agricultural Research Coalition to develop a new research strategy for Ontario agriculture. This will enhance the information transfer between industry and our research institutions.

***We've got fertile ground to sow. We rank 1st in North America for post-graduate studies in Agri-Biotech. We rank 2nd in agricultural research and development.***

**Food safety**

**We will better market the safety and quality of Ontario food products.**

We will work with farm organizations, food processors and the federal government to ensure the highest safety and quality standards for our food products. We will maintain and strengthen our brand as a producer of safe, healthy, quality food.



## ***Growing Ontario's small businesses***

Innovation turns ideas into new products, new services and new businesses. Entrepreneurs make it happen, especially in our small business community, which creates the most new jobs in Ontario.

We will do more to help small business grow.

### ***Low taxes***

**We will hold the line on small business taxes.**

Small business drives our economy. Ontario has among the lowest taxes for small business in North America. We will protect this advantage.

### ***Less paperwork***

**We will reduce the bureaucratic workload for small business.**

We will convert the Red Tape Commission to make it an agency specifically devoted to meeting the needs of small business.

### ***User-friendly laws***

**We will create a one-stop shopping web portal.**

This will give small business people a convenient way to learn about all the laws, rules and regulations that apply to their enterprise.



### ***Strengthening our innovation advantage***

Research is innovation's incubator. Ontario has a strong research base, but we can do more when it comes to bringing this research to market.

#### ***Supporting research***

**We will support research by supporting researchers. We will increase graduate scholarships by 50 percent.**

Ontario cannot afford to lose brilliant minds to competing jurisdictions. Our faculty recruitment drive will help our research institutions attract world-class talent.

#### ***Marketing innovation***

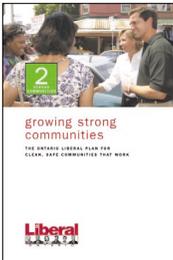
**We will help bring good ideas to market.**

Research is only half the innovation story. The other half is bringing good ideas to market.

Learning from successful jurisdictions like Georgia, we will create a provincial research commercialization project that will support university and private sector efforts to bring new ideas to market.

#### **Learning From Success – Georgia's Commercialization Project**

Georgia's economy blossomed in the 1990s because of a relentless focus on commercializing research. Through a co-operative effort between the public, private and academic sectors, Georgia leapt ahead of other jurisdictions in innovation performance, outpacing even those with larger basic research budgets.

**Strong cities****We will support our cities.**

Our cities should be breeding grounds for innovation. Strong, diverse cities attract highly skilled workers and enhance productivity. Instead of building them up, the Harris-Eves government damaged our cities, with gridlock, crumbling infrastructure and pollution now too common.

Our *Growing Strong Communities Plan*, released last year, unlocks gridlock, curbs sprawl, cleans the environment and puts more police on the street.

**Protecting our health care advantage****We will improve our competitive advantage in health care.**

Like education, our public health care system is a unique and valuable asset. It gives businesses in Ontario an enormous cost advantage and gives their workers a quality-of-life advantage.

***Public health care saves employers thousands of dollars per employee. In the U.S., employers cover 2/3rds of all health costs. That's why it costs \$2,400 less to build a car in an Ontario auto plant than it does in Michigan.***

The Harris-Eves government has jeopardized our medicare advantage by opening the door to more private health care, which means higher employee benefit costs. We will protect and improve our medicare advantage.

## building a truly global Ontario

***Trade creates jobs and grows the economy faster and better than any single economic policy. Ontario is the world's most trade-oriented economy, with exports making up a larger percentage of our GDP than any G7 nation. We have access to the world's largest market and are blessed with the most diverse population on the planet.***

Despite our natural and created advantages, the Harris-Eves government has done little to develop our global potential. We should be winning an ever-increasing share of international investment. Instead, it is declining. International firms seeking access to the U.S. market should look to Ontario first. Instead, we are being overlooked.

We will expand our trading relationships to ensure that we attract our share of investment from around the world. And we will market Ontario's expertise in business, finance and education, and protect our respected securities market. At the same time, we will help attract skilled talent from around the world, further increasing growth and productivity.



## ***A secure, diverse trade environment***

We will make this province a magnet for international investment by strengthening our unique ties with the U.S. and expanding trade with other economies. We will build on the strengths of our diverse population and shore up neglected infrastructure.

### ***Building border infrastructure***



### **We will target infrastructure funding at border crossings.**

It is a sad joke that there are 15 traffic lights between Toronto and Texas, and 14 of them are in Windsor. In fact, the CAW estimates that truckers spend more time getting from Highway 401 to the U.S. border than they do clearing customs.

We will invest in necessary highway and road improvements to ensure adequate access to these critical trade links, starting with Windsor, Niagara and Sarnia.

### ***Securing our border***

### **We will do our part to maintain a secure border.**

We will work with the federal government and the Great Lakes states to make sure our economy is not threatened by security concerns. We will do our part to help industry adopt technology that facilitates easy access to border crossings for low-risk individuals and businesses.

***Expanding global trade opportunities***

**We will leverage our diversity to attract investment.**

Our diversity offers us unique access to the world's most established and rapidly growing economies, from Europe to India and China. We will enlist successful private sector business people with ties to growth regions abroad to act as our investment agents. Agents will be appointed on merit, not patronage, and paid according to their success at bringing new investment to Ontario.

***The diplomatic advantage***

**We will take advantage of the more than 200 consulates and embassies in Ontario.**

Through these offices, Ontario has extraordinary opportunities to build trading relationships with other countries.

***Global service***

**We will bring the next generation of global customer-service operations to Ontario.**

This industry, which is responsible for millions of jobs worldwide, is well-paying, highly skilled and technologically advanced. It is a perfect fit for our multicultural and multilingual workforce.



***Marketing our schools***

**We will market our post-secondary expertise to the world.**

Ontario's colleges and universities are highly respected and highly marketable. We will create new markets for Ontario, especially in rapidly developing countries.

**Seneca – A Leader in International Education**

Seneca, Canada's largest public college, has become a significant trainer on the international scene. It has hosted Chinese business executives who have come here to study Canadian business practices. It has joint venture agreements in China, the Pacific Rim, Mexico and South America to provide training to an international clientele.

***A secure investment climate***

Investors must see Ontario as a safe and secure place to invest. Last year's performance in the U.S. equity markets served as a tough lesson for what can happen when investors lose confidence.

***Tough securities regulation***

**We will enforce tough, transparent and fair securities regulation.**

We will ensure our securities regulations maintain the confidence of investors and publicly traded companies alike.

***A national securities commission***

**We will actively pursue the creation of a single national securities commission.**

Canada does not need multiple securities commissions. They are inefficient, expensive to maintain and inhospitable to international investment. We will do everything possible to promote the creation of a single national commission based in our largest equity market, Toronto.



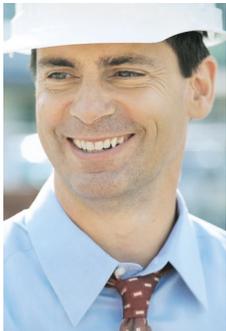
# you have a choice

**A choice between four more years of the Harris-Eves government sitting on its hands or a McGuinty Liberal government rolling up its sleeves and working to achieve our potential.**

**Between a tired government satisfied with the status quo or energetic leadership that will bring new investment and good jobs to Ontario.**

**Between a government that poorly manages your hard-earned tax dollars or one that guarantees a better return on your investment.**

**Choose change. Choose to achieve our potential.**



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4  
HEALTH CARE

# the health care we need

THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN FOR  
BETTER HEALTH CARE





**March 2003**

**Public health care is the best health care. We believe medicare is a fundamental statement of the values we share as Ontarians and as Canadians. Our job is to make health care work better so you get the care you need, when you need it.**

**The Romanow Commission proved that the way forward is to improve medicare, so that it responds better to your needs. Privatization takes us backward, to an era when we received only the care we could pay for out of our pockets.**

**Romanow called on us to strengthen our public health care system, not give up on it. To modernize, not privatize, medicare.**

**We couldn't agree more.**

**The Harris-Eves government believes in better access for those who can afford to pay. We have a plan for better health care – for everyone.**

**The Harris-Eves government believes in more private health care. They allowed private MRI and CT clinics, opened the door to private hospitals, cut homecare services and raised fees for seniors living in nursing homes.**

**The Harris-Eves agenda is not what Ontarians want and it's not what medicare needs.**

**It's time for a change. It's time for a real commitment to medicare and a solid plan to move us forward.**

**Our plan will:**

- **Protect and improve universal, public medicare**
- **Shorten waiting times by providing better access to care**
- **Provide better care at home, in hospitals and in communities**

- Train and recruit more doctors and nurses
- Make Ontario the healthiest province in Canada

Finally, we will make the health care system answer to you, the people who depend on it. For the first time, we will set standards, make them public and give power to an independent, objective body to report directly to you on performance.

That's the health care we need. But it's not the health care we're getting with the Harris-Eves agenda of creeping privatization.

Join us as we work hard to improve medicare in a way that is true to our values. Together, we can make sure we all get the health care we need.



**Dalton McGuinty**

**Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party**



***We need a fresh injection of the values, commitment and leadership that built medicare. The Harris-Eves government weakened public health care because they are not committed to it. They gave us overcrowded and understaffed hospitals, longer waiting lists, clogged emergency rooms and fewer surgeries.***

The Harris-Eves government opened the door to private MRI and CT clinics and private hospitals. They believe in buy-your-way-to-the-front-of-the-line health care. **We believe in a universal, publicly funded health care system that gives us all the care we need, when we need it.**

The Harris-Eves government put tax cuts for large corporations ahead of your health care. They left us with the second fewest doctors, nurses and hospital beds per capita in Canada. **We will put your health care first. We will invest in medicare to make Ontario a health care leader once again.**

The Harris-Eves government fired thousands of nurses and added to a severe doctor shortage. Now, nearly one million Ontarians cannot find basic care. **We will recruit and train more health care professionals so that no one goes without the medical attention they need and deserve.**

The Harris-Eves government turned its back on public health. They did too little to make us healthier, but plenty to make us sick. They gave us dirty air and tainted water and they ignored the need to help us stay healthy in the first place. **We will help you stay healthy at every age and stage in your life – in school, at work, in your community and during retirement.**

# commitment to medicare

***The Harris-Eves government has failed to protect public health care because they want to open the door to private, American-style, two-tier care. They have deliberately kept the public in the dark about the quality of care. We will make a legal, binding commitment to public medicare and ensure that you have the information to hold any government accountable for delivering quality health care.***

## **Commitment to Medicare Act**

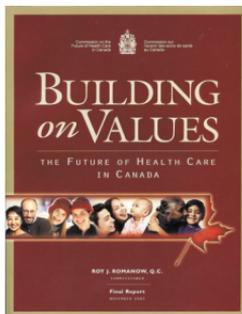
**We will pass a *Commitment to Medicare Act* that will make universal, public medicare the law in Ontario.**

The Harris-Eves government is opening the way to private MRI and CT clinics and private hospitals. As the Romanow Commission proved, privatization is a step backward.

We will end the Harris-Eves agenda of creeping privatization.

***“Early in my mandate, I challenged those advocating radical solutions – user fees, medical savings accounts, de-listing services, greater privatization, a parallel private system – to come forward with evidence.... There is no evidence that these solutions will deliver better or cheaper care, or improve access (except, perhaps, for those who can afford to pay out of their own pockets).”***

– Roy Romanow



We believe all Ontarians should have access to medically necessary health care services based on need, not on ability to pay.

Under our plan, two-tier medicare will be illegal in Ontario.

### The Eves Agenda – Two-Tier Health Care

“Last week in Barrie, Mr. Eves said people should be able to buy their way to the front of the health-care line.” – *National Post, January 21, 2002*

“Ernie Eves...said yesterday that the province may have to allow two-tier health care where patients can pay for services themselves if they don't want to wait for treatment under medicare.” – *Globe and Mail, January 12, 2002*

### The straight goods



**We will report directly to you on health care because you have a right to know how your health care system is doing.**

You deserve more than misleading TV advertisements, paid for with your health care dollars. You deserve the straight goods on health care.

We will make accountability to the public a central principle of medicare in Ontario.

We will create an independent Health Standards Council that will track health care measures that are important to you. Are we reducing waiting times? Are we eliminating ER backlogs? Are we hiring more doctors and nurses? Is the health of Ontarians improving? Are you getting value for your hard-earned tax dollars? You have a right to know the answers. The arms' length Health Standards Council will deliver them, directly to you.

### **The Harris-Eves Record: No Accountability**

- Stopped reporting to the public on emergency room backlogs in 2000 because the problem had become so bad.
- Prevented the Provincial Auditor from auditing how health care dollars are spent.
- Wasted health dollars on tax cuts and political advertising.

### **Value for money**



### **We will make sure that your health care dollars are invested wisely.**

In order to give Ontarians the health care they need, we have to be smart with our health care dollars. We have already found areas where we could be doing better:

- We could save up to \$30 million every year by adding generic drugs to the Ontario Drug Benefit Program as soon as they are approved by Health Canada.
- We could save, at a minimum, hundreds of millions of dollars every year by making pharmacists part of family health care to help you manage your prescription medicines.

### **We will give the Provincial Auditor the authority to audit all health care agencies and deliverers.**

Almost half of the Ontario budget is spent on health care, but the Harris-Eves government prevents the Provincial Auditor from investigating whether it is being spent well. That is why we will give the Auditor the authority to audit all health care agencies and deliverers.

# shorter waiting times

***The Harris-Eves government believes in shorter waiting times for those who can afford to pay. We believe in better access to universal, public medicare for everyone. The time it takes to receive care should be determined by medical experts, not politicians.***

## **Shorter waiting times**

**We will work with experts to set and meet maximum needs-based waiting times for care.**

These standards will be made public, so you know you will get treated within a safe time period. We will begin by setting and meeting standards for **cardiac care, cancer care, total joint replacements and MRI/CT scans.**

We will meet these standards by making the smart investments described in this plan and by building on successes like the Cardiac Care Network.

***Only 31% of cancer patients are receiving radiation treatment within the recommended four-week period.***

## **Public MRI's and CT's**

**We will expand MRI and CT services in the public system to provide better access for everyone.**



The Harris-Eves government opened private, two-tier MRI and CT clinics. These clinics will sell vanity scans alongside public services, giving quicker access to those who can afford to buy their way to the front of the line.

We will cancel the Harris-Eves private clinics and replace them with public services. The Romanow Commission proved there is no evidence to support expanding private diagnostic services.

Many communities have already raised money for a new MRI or CT for their local hospital, but have been denied operating funds by the Harris-Eves government. Instead of opening private clinics, we will work with these communities to expand access in the public system.

## better care

***An effective health care system provides access to quality care in many different settings – at your local doctor's office, in a community hospital, in a regional health centre, in your own home or elsewhere in the community. The Harris-Eves government's centralized approach has produced more bureaucracy, not better health care. We will ensure that services are available where you need them, when you need them.***

### **Better family health care**

**We will deliver better family health care through family health teams.**

Family health teams will deliver better care to you and a better quality of working life for health professionals. They will deliver care centred on you, the patient. You will have access to care from a professional who knows you and knows your history.

Family health teams will be made up of doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and other health care professionals who will protect and promote your health. You will have access to a team member around the clock so that you do not have to wait in an emergency room with minor health problems.

Most important, your team will focus on keeping you healthy, not just on treating you when you are sick.



**We will establish at least 150 family health teams across Ontario.**

Better family health care will not happen through a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach. To ensure better health care, we will:

- Help communities build family health teams that meet their needs.
- Create incentives for doctors to practice in teams.
- Make the latest information technology available to professionals who practice in teams. Teams will use electronic health records that you control and they administer.
- Work with medical schools, universities and colleges to prepare new professionals to practice in family health teams.

**Helping our hospitals**



**We will take pressure off our hospitals so you will not have to wait long hours in overcrowded emergency rooms for necessary care.**

The Harris-Eves government closed hospitals, shut down emergency rooms, removed beds and slashed budgets. The result: overcrowded hospitals and emergency rooms, cancelled surgeries and patients waiting too long for care.

Hospitals need immediate relief and long-term stability so patients can get better care.

We will place an immediate moratorium on ER closures. We will unclog existing ER's, ensure safe occupancy levels in hospitals and move patients out of hallways by opening 1,600 beds. Finally, we will create better community supports so you do not have to stay in the hospital if you do not need to be there.

We will bring stability to our hospitals by providing adequate multi-year funding.

**Stronger health sciences centres**

**We will strengthen our health sciences centres with stable, multi-year funding that meets their unique needs.**

We know how important these centres of excellence are to the communities they serve. They deliver our most complex care, educate our health care professionals and discover new medical miracles.

Under the Harris-Eves government, underfunding and thoughtless centralization forced important programs to be cancelled, devastating affected communities. Ottawa and London were hit particularly hard and lost valuable public services.

**Better homecare**

**We will invest in homecare so that Ontarians can receive better care at home.**

The Harris-Eves government cut funding and lowered standards. Now, over 115,000 Ontarians are forced to either go without care or receive it in an institution.

Romanow identified homecare as an essential component of modern medicare. Our long-term vision is to make homecare a medically necessary service. Our first step is to get our vulnerable and elderly the services they need.

We will remove the arbitrary Harris-Eves limits on homecare. If you require care and want it in your home, and that care costs less than sending you to a hospital or nursing home, we will make sure you get it.

### **Respect and dignity for seniors**



**We will build a Seniors Strategy that guarantees our seniors will be treated with respect and dignity.**

The Harris-Eves government lowered standards and cut the services that our parents and grandparents need.

We will work with our seniors to develop a comprehensive Seniors Strategy that will improve all services that affect them. We will begin by fixing the mess the Harris-Eves government created and improving key services for seniors. We will:

- Cancel the Harris-Eves 15% increase in nursing home fees.
- Set high standards for our nursing homes and regularly inspect them to make sure those standards are being met.
- Strengthen homecare so seniors can stay in their homes as long as possible.
- Support seniors' centres that provide social, recreational, educational and volunteer opportunities.
- Improve the Ontario Drug Benefit Program to ensure seniors get the medications they need.

#### **The Harris-Eves Record on Seniors**

- Reduced homecare services, forcing the frail and elderly out of their homes and into institutional care.
- Hiked nursing home fees by 15%.
- Removed standards that made sure all nursing home residents received at least 2.25 hours of nursing care daily and 3 baths per week.
- Allowed nursing homes to operate without licenses or regular inspections, as reported by the Provincial Auditor.

- Help seniors better manage their prescription needs through better family health care.
- Work with colleges, universities, health care providers and seniors to ensure proper senior care is taught to all future health care providers.

#### **Success Story Good Companions Seniors Centre, Ottawa**

The Good Companions Seniors Centre provides social activities and services necessary to enhance quality of life. Good Companions provides daily fitness classes and craft workshops to help members stay active. It also acts as a resource base, providing information on volunteer opportunities and other community services available to them.

#### ***Better mental health care***

#### **We will help families struggling with mental illness.**

One out of five Ontarians will suffer from mental illness at some time.

Inadequate mental health services also contribute to the homelessness tragedy fostered by the Harris-Eves government.

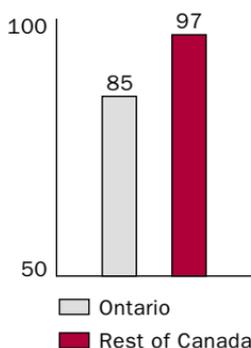
We will invest in community mental health agencies to improve services, including family self-help, crisis intervention and community treatment. And we will significantly increase supportive housing options for those suffering from mental illness.

# health care professionals

***We need caring hands and talented minds to improve medicare. The Harris-Eves government demoralized and mismanaged our health care professionals. No wonder we now have the second fewest nurses and family doctors in Canada.***

## **More family doctors**

### **Family doctors per 100,000 population**



**We will ensure there are more family doctors in communities across Ontario.**

We believe you should be able to see a family doctor when you need one. To meet the need for more family doctors, we will increase medical school spots by 15% and increase the number of family medicine training spots.

We will make family medicine more attractive by creating a better quality of working life through family health teams. And we will make medical tuition more affordable and provide loan forgiveness to students who choose family medicine.

## **The Harris-Eves Record on Doctor Supply: Chronic Shortages**

- In 1995, there were 60 under-served communities in Ontario, requiring 83 family physicians. Today, there are 122 under-served communities, requiring 569 family physicians.
- The Ontario Medical Association estimates that our severe doctor shortage affects nearly one million people.

### **Access for foreign-trained physicians**

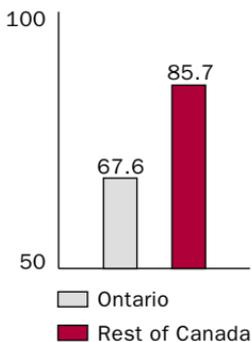
**We will remove barriers preventing well-qualified foreign-trained physicians from practicing in Ontario.**

Nearly one million Ontarians do not have a doctor. Meanwhile, we have more than 1,000 foreign-trained physicians waiting to be licensed. We will help our newly-arrived doctors meet Ontario standards and give them the opportunity to practice medicine here, where we need them.

### **More nurses, more respect**

**We will hire more nurses and create a better working environment for these hardworking professionals.**

#### **Nurses per 10,000 population**



The Harris-Eves government disgracefully compared nurses to hula-hoop workers. They fired thousands. Thousands more left.

Nurses are the heart of health care and they deserve better. We will create a positive, rewarding environment for nurses.

We will hire 8,000 new nurses. Our strategy will include the creation of more nursing school spaces and recruitment of nurses who have left the profession or left the province under Harris-Eves.

Our goal is to have 70% of registered nurses working full-time, up from only 50% today.

In addition, we will fund more positions for nurse practitioners, who will play a vital role in delivering better family health care.

#### **The Harris-Eves Record on Nurses**

- Fired thousands of nurses at a cost of \$400 million, then tried to hire them back.
- Created a poor quality of working life, driving nurses out of the profession. In 2001 alone over 1,700 registered nurses left nursing.

***Helping under-serviced communities*****We will help under-serviced communities attract and retain doctors and other health care professionals.**

If you live in small town Ontario, chances are too high that you do not have the health care you need. We will improve incentives to attract and retain doctors for under-serviced communities. Incentives will be based on the needs of communities and doctors, including important factors like job placement for spouses of physicians.

People who live or train in under-serviced areas are more likely to practice there. That is why we will expand initiatives to train medical professionals in under-serviced areas. As part of this strategy, we will accelerate the development of the Northern Ontario Medical School and the Windsor medical school satellite campus.

We will partner with communities to create at least 150 family health teams. We know it is too hard for doctors to work in small communities on their own. In a family health team, doctors can share the load with other physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners and other professionals.

**Success Story: Group Health Centre, Sault Ste. Marie**

In 1963, workers in Sault Ste. Marie opened a community organized and operated health complex called Group Health Centre. The Centre was developed in response to community concern about access to medical services. Today, it provides services to over one-half of the people in Sault Ste. Marie. Professionals work as a team to ensure their patients receive comprehensive health care around the clock. The community operates the Centre so that the professionals can practice medicine, not administration.

**Family medical leave**

**We will help you care for your parents and other seriously ill family members.**

Family members provide critically important support when illness strikes. We will recognize this reality with a new *Family Medical Leave Act* to provide up to six weeks of job-protected unpaid leave to help you care for a member of your family.

**Looking ahead**

**We will plan ahead to make sure shortsighted decisions do not leave us short of health care professionals.**

We will engage health experts to monitor and anticipate our need for health care professionals and work with colleges and universities to make sure those needs can be met.



# helping people stay healthy

**Healthy people enjoy a higher quality of life and cost our health system less. Yet the Harris-Eves government has neglected public health and disease prevention initiatives. We will help you stay healthy in school, at work, in your community and during retirement.**

**Make Ontario Canada's healthiest province**

**We will help Ontarians become the healthiest people in Canada.**

Beginning with better pre-natal care for expectant moms through to expanded recreation opportunities for seniors, we will help Ontarians of all ages enjoy better health.

**A healthy start**



**We will help expectant mothers with nutrition and pre-natal care through better family health care.**

We will knit together the patchwork of programs available to make them more accessible to more Ontarians, especially those in high-risk environments. We will also restore the nutritional allowance for expectant mothers on social assistance, a program that the Harris-Eves government cut.

Our Best Start plan for early childhood education will get our kids off on the right foot, helping them develop healthy habits and learning skills sooner.

**Healthy workplaces**

**We will partner with businesses to create and expand healthy workplace practices.**

Smart businesses know that investments in workplace health can yield big dividends: \$1 invested in health returns up to \$6 in productivity. As a major employer, our government will play a leadership role in pioneering and sharing healthy workplace ideas. We will also partner with private sector businesses to expand healthy practices across Ontario.

**Healthy schools****We will help kids stay healthy through mandatory daily physical activity in schools.**

Our kids spend three to five hours per day in front of the television and approximately 26 hours per week sitting in the classroom. Small wonder that childhood obesity in Ontario doubled between 1981 and 1997.

We will work to make our elementary school students more active and healthy by ensuring that each day they receive a minimum of 20 minutes of cardiovascular activity. We will also set a strong example on nutrition by banning the sale of junk food in our elementary schools.

**Success Story: Thames Valley School Board**

In 1998, the Thames Valley School Board made daily physical activity mandatory in 19 schools. Many of these schools had no gym and none had a full-time phys-ed teacher. Regular teachers led activities, often in the classroom. Today, students in each of the board's 156 elementary schools get at least 20 minutes of daily physical activity. The initiative has reduced violence on the playground, improved learning and taught children the importance of staying active.

**Protection from life-threatening allergies****We will provide public schools with guidelines on how to treat a child in anaphylactic shock due to allergy.**

The number of deaths caused by anaphylactic reactions to food is increasing every year. Without immediate attention, severely allergic children can die from anaphylactic shock. To protect children with life threatening allergies, we will require every school to develop an anaphylactic plan based on province-wide standards.

**Healthy seniors****Our Seniors Strategy will focus on keeping seniors active and well.**

We will expand seniors' recreation centres to help seniors live healthy, productive lives at home. Our senior-friendly family health teams will work directly with pharmacists, who will help seniors maintain healthy drug management. Our enhancements to homecare will help seniors stay at home longer, by choice.

**Sport and recreation****We will support community sport and recreation.**

We know that sport and recreation keep us healthy and strengthen our communities. The Harris-Eves government slashed funding for community recreation. The effects of inactive living cost our health care system \$1.1 billion every year. We will do more to support active living.

**Healthy, Active Living is Important**

- It is estimated that more than 7,000 Ontarians die prematurely every year due to obesity-related health problems.
- Statistics Canada has reported that obese Canadians are four times more likely to have diabetes and three times more likely to have high blood pressure.
- About 5% of total health care spending in Ontario goes to treating obesity-related illness.

**Safe alternative health care****We will enhance protection for Ontarians who use non-traditional medicine.**

There are many medical traditions in our diverse society. We will do more to ensure that those who choose to use alternative approaches can rely on evidence-based standards. Following the lead of provinces like BC and Quebec, we will start by regulating Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners so that those who choose these treatments can have confidence in their safety.

**Anti-smoking strategy****No Smoking**

**We will address the number one killer in Ontario with an aggressive plan to reduce smoking.**

Nothing kills more Ontarians than smoking. Every year, 12,000 of us die from tobacco use. Smoking costs our health care system and economy nearly \$4 billion in direct costs and lost productivity.

Our comprehensive anti-smoking strategy will help smokers quit smoking, prevent our kids from starting and help communities transition out of tobacco-based industry. Here's how we will do it:

- **Real prevention.** Nothing prevents people from smoking better than increasing the cost of cigarettes. Ontario's cigarettes are still cheaper than almost every other province. We will make cigarettes more expensive to prevent kids from lighting up.
- **Tougher Controls.** We will ban countertop and behind-the-counter retail displays of tobacco products.
- **Smoke-Free Public and Work Places.** We will make all public and work places in Ontario 100% smoke free within three years. Health is a provincial responsibility, so we will take the onus off municipal governments.
- **Helping Smokers Quit.** We will use increased tobacco tax revenue to make smoking cessation medications available to all smokers trying to quit.
- **Youth Talking to Youth.** We will create a peer-to-peer anti-smoking campaign targeted at youth and created by youth. Such programs have been very successful in other jurisdictions.
- **Transition for Communities.** We will establish a Community Transition Fund, also with increased tobacco tax revenue, to help farmers move away from growing tobacco. We will help communities move to a sustainable economic base.

### AMO and OMA Call for Smoke-Free Workplaces and Public Places

In August 2000, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario asked the Harris-Eves government to enact uniform smoke-free workplace and public place rules. Since then, more and more municipalities have passed smoke-free workplace and public place bylaws.

After three years of government inaction, in 2003, the Ontario Medical Association also called upon the Harris-Eves government to pass smoke-free workplace and public place legislation.

### **Immunization and screening**



### **We will make sure that you have access to vaccines and screening that work.**

We will start by providing chicken pox and meningitis vaccines to children and colorectal cancer screening to adults over 50.

Immunization prevents illness. Every year, 890 of us are hospitalized and 234,000 work days are missed because of chickenpox. In 2001, 65 people became ill and eight people died from meningitis. We could prevent these diseases with a modest investment in vaccinations for children.

Proper screening can have the same positive effects. Each year, thousands are diagnosed with colorectal cancer, the second leading cause of cancer deaths. With proper screening, we could save hundreds of lives and millions of health care dollars.

### **Heart attack survival**

### **We will provide better access to life-saving portable heart defibrillators.**

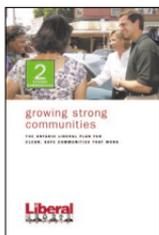
When heart attack victims in full arrest have timely access to portable defibrillators, their chances of survival increase from 5% to 50%. We will set guidelines for the use of these life-saving devices and place them in all provincial buildings.

**Better public health**

**We will give the Chief Medical Officer of Health real independence to protect you.**

When contaminated drinking water killed seven Ontarians and made more than 2,300 seriously ill in Walkerton, it was a tragic reminder of the importance of public health.

Unlike the Harris-Eves government, we will not turn our back on public health. We will make sure public health officials are free to speak directly to Ontarians and act in your interest. We will make the Chief Medical Officer of Health an independent officer, rather than a government appointee. The Chief Medical Officer of Health will report to Ontarians annually on the state of the public health system.

**Clean air and water**

**We will ensure cleaner air and safer water for Ontarians.**

Air pollution kills 1,900 of us every year and many of us do not trust our water. Cleaning the air we breathe and the water we drink will go a long way to improving the health of all Ontarians. That is why we have committed to replace our coal-burning plants, Ontario's biggest single sources of air pollution, with cleaner energy sources. And we will implement every recommendation of the Walkerton Report.

**Better jobs, healthier people**

**We will grow Ontario's economy and create opportunities for better health for all.**

People who have affordable housing, good jobs and a decent living wage are much more likely to be healthy. Our plan to grow Ontario's economy will create jobs, raise the minimum wage and provide more affordable housing.

# you have a choice

**A choice between a Harris-Eves government that will let some buy their way to the front of the health care line or a McGuinty Liberal government that will guarantee all Ontarians access to public medicare.**

**Between the failed policies of creeping privatization or leadership that will protect and improve medicare.**

**Between a leader and a party that are stuck in the past or leadership with a positive plan for the future.**

**Choose change. Choose the health care you need.**

**Choose Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberals.**



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# government that works for you

**THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN FOR  
A MORE DEMOCRATIC ONTARIO**



O N T A R I O



**April 2003**

**During the provincial election of 1971, when I was a teenager, over 73% of eligible voters went to the polls.**

**By the 1999 election, the turnout among eligible voters was little over 50%.**

**When barely half our population takes the time to exercise their most basic democratic right, when turnout among young people and new Canadians hardly hits one-third, real change is needed.**

**People have lost faith in their politicians and their institutions of government.**

**Disturbing as it is, it is not hard to understand why.**

**For decades we have watched our democratic institutions erode. And for the last eight years we have seen these trends accelerate dramatically under the Harris-Eves government.**

**Public consultation on major legislation used to be automatic. Now it is the rare exception.**

**MPP's used to be respected representatives of the people. Now they are bit players manipulated to do the bidding of the Premier and his unelected advisors.**

**Government advertising used to be an occasional tool to convey essential information to the public. Now it is an everyday abuse of taxpayers' money by a government trying to make itself look good.**

**Elections used to be designed to foster public participation. Now the timing and rules are cynically manipulated to reduce turnout and minimize exposure of the government's record.**

**It doesn't have to be this way.**

**This is our agenda for reforming government. While the Harris-Eves approach has been to denigrate public service and promote narrow private interests, we will bring the people back to the centre of politics.**

**Our ambitious plan won't cost taxpayers a penny. It will actually save millions of dollars while making government more effective, responsive and accountable to you.**

**Nothing inspires me more than the opportunity to combat the cynicism that far too many people feel about Ontario politics.**

**As we enter the next provincial election, I will have three children in university and a fourth completing high school. I find it unacceptable that their generation may be so turned off by our political system that they will virtually abandon representative democracy.**

**We cannot let that happen. I will not let that happen.**

**Join me in making the Ontario government your government.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dalton McGuinty**

**Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party**

***The Harris-Eves government has grown further and further out of touch with your needs. They have favoured special interests over the public interest. We know that the government of Ontario belongs to the people of Ontario. Our decisions will be made in the interests of all Ontarians, not those of a select few.***

The Harris-Eves government took every opportunity to exclude Ontarians from the political process. They shortened the election period, manipulated election dates for political advantage and distorted the rules to discourage tenants, students and rural voters from having their say. **We will make the political process in Ontario more inclusive. We will hold elections on fixed dates, introduce Internet voting and work to increase voter turnout by at least 10%.**

The Harris-Eves government diminished our democratic institutions by cutting off debates on major laws, failing to show up in the Legislature and presenting a taxpayer-funded infomercial instead of a real budget. **We will make our institutions more democratic by freeing your MPP to represent you, mandating public consultation on all major legislation, requiring Ministers to attend Question Period and giving you the choice to change the way we elect a government.**

The Harris-Eves government gave money too much influence and citizens too little. They more than doubled the limit on tax-deductible corporate contributions and effectively eliminated political spending limits. **We will give you power over the role of money in politics, by asking you to set strict limits on the amounts political parties can raise and spend. We will put the public interest ahead of special interests.**

The Harris-Eves government has wasted your money by spending almost a billion dollars on partisan ads, consultants and spin-doctors.

**We will respect your hard-earned tax dollars. We will ban partisan government ads, balance our budgets and give more power to the Provincial Auditor to make sure your money is spent wisely.**



# strengthening our democracy

***The Harris-Eves government has attacked our democratic institutions for eight years. They limited debate and prevented MPP's from representing you effectively. They eroded democratic accountability by creating a taxpayer-funded infomercial and passing it off as a budget. We will give you more power, respect your representatives and equip them to represent you better.***

## **The Harris-Eves Record: Parliamentary Democracy**

- Changed the rules to restrict debate and limit the power of your representatives.
- Forcibly closed debate on 60% of bills, up from 1% in 1985.
- Fewer than half of the bills introduced by the Harris-Eves government since 1999 have received public hearings.
- Since 1995, the Legislature sat only 78 days per year or 21% of the time. This year, the Harris-Eves "Christmas Break" will last until the end of April – 138 days!

Your democracy should work in your best interests, not in the best interests of the party in power. The rules of the Ontario Legislature should help your elected MPP's represent you, not make it easier for the Premier and his unelected advisors and spin-doctors to shut you out.

## ***Fair elections on fixed dates***

### **We will have fixed dates for elections.**

We will take away the Premier's "divine right" to set election dates when it is politically opportune for the government. It is time to put the silly guessing game behind us once and for all.

Instead, an election will normally occur every four years on a pre-determined date. In the event a government is defeated on a non-confidence motion, special rules will allow for an early vote.

**Voting reform****You will decide how elections work.**

The time has come for a full, open public debate on voting reform. When almost half of the public does not see the point in heading to the polls, we have already had a non-confidence vote in our democracy.

***“Thoughtful Canadians have remained troubled by the first-past-the-post voting system, or by consequences of that system – cynicism about government, the centralization of power... the lack of effective checks and balances to that power, government out of touch with voters, and the regional alienation fuelled by skewed election results under and over representing votes.”***

– Jeffrey Simpson, *The Friendly Dictatorship*

The only way to reverse this trend is through engaging citizens in an open and honest debate about our democracy. After consulting with the public, we will hold a referendum on whether we should keep our winner-take-all voting system or replace it with another.

Alternatives to our voting system could include some form of proportional representation, preferential ballots or mixed systems. What matters most is that you will choose the electoral system that best represents our democratic values and diverse society.

**Higher voter turnout****We will target an increase in voter turnout of at least 10%.**

Exercising your right to vote should be as easy as possible. The permanent voters list, used for the first time in the last provincial election, created serious problems that led to poor turnouts in low-income and high-rental-density areas, as well as among young Ontarians. We will counter these effects with supplementary, targeted voter enumeration to ensure that these groups are not overlooked.

We will also make it easier for disabled Ontarians to exercise their right to vote.

Combined with the other measures outlined in this document, these changes will help increase voter turnout in the next election by at least 10%.

### ***Internet voting***



### **We will make online voting an option.**

It is time to bring the way we vote into the 21st century. We will ensure that Internet voting is an available option, without compromising security. It will not be mandatory for any voter.

Initially, online voting will be at a polling place or bank machine-style voting kiosk in a public place. As voters become more comfortable with the technology, it will evolve to include the option to vote from home or work on a secure Internet connection.

### ***Democracy between elections***

### **We will give you new ways to make your voice heard.**

The Harris-Eves government listened to their advisors, not to the people of Ontario. We will create new lines of communication to make sure your voice is heard in government. For example, we will look to Citizens' Juries, made up of representative groups of Ontarians, to provide advice on a broad range of issues.

Based on the traditional jury system, Citizens' Juries have been used effectively in many jurisdictions, including Britain, the U.S. and Germany, as well as by the Romanow Commission in Canada.

***Respect for your MPP*****We will give your elected representative more power.**

Your MPP should be free to represent your views, not just parrot the views of his or her party. We will make sure all non-cabinet MPP's are free to criticize and vote against government legislation, with the exception of explicit campaign promises and confidence matters.

We will scrap the changes the Harris-Eves government made to the Standing Orders of the Legislature that concentrated power in the hands of spin-doctors and advisors. We will give more independence and power to legislative committees, including the right to initiate legislation.

We will bring a team approach to governing. We will respect and draw on the talents and expertise of every elected representative, including opposition members.

***Question Period*****We will show up for Question Period.**

Under the Harris-Eves government, the Legislature sat too seldom. And when it did, the Premier and his ministers too often failed to show up for work.

We will require all cabinet ministers to attend at least two-thirds of Question Periods. Any cabinet member who fails to meet that standard will be fined \$500 for each additional Question Period missed.

***Mandatory public hearings*****We will require public hearings for all major legislation.**

The public should be given the opportunity to comment on any legislation of significance. Yet the norm has become the exception under the Harris-Eves government. Drastic reforms to education, municipal government and social policy have been forced through the Legislature without public hearings.

Public input is essential to good government. We will ensure that you have the opportunity to offer comment on all major bills.

***Accountable agencies and appointments*****We will lift the veil of secrecy on government agencies and appointments.**

Major government agencies, boards and commissions are large and important bodies. Yet they operate with too little accountability to the people of Ontario.



Ontario Power Generation controls assets valued at over \$16 billion. The LCBO receives over \$2 billion in annual revenue. The Ontario Realty Corporation holds hundreds of millions of dollars in government land.

We will end the lack of transparency and accountability these organizations enjoyed under the Harris-Eves government and protect your investments.

We will empower a legislative committee to question the heads of these government-owned agencies on an annual basis.

In addition to appointing qualified individuals to fill these roles, we will publicly disclose the annual payments – not just per diem rates – to all individuals sitting on agencies, boards and commissions. Employees will be subject to the same salary disclosure rules as public servants.

The kind of abuses uncovered at Hydro One must never be repeated. We will make all government agencies subject to the *Freedom of Information Act* and insist that they disclose significant expense claims by board members and executives.

***A valued public service*****We will value our public servants and support them in their work.**

Good government requires both inspired political leadership and a motivated, high-quality public service. One cannot succeed without the other.

The Harris-Eves government insulted public servants, eroded the capacity of the Ontario Public Service and erased the boundary between partisan and public service activities. At the same time, they awarded contracts to private companies to deliver public services, all too often resulting in higher costs and less accountability.

We believe in excellence in public service. We will respect and support the men and women of the Ontario Public Service and those in the broader public sector. We will harness their skills and commitment to help implement real, positive change for Ontario.

We will build our public service for the future. We will launch a campaign to recruit Ontario's best and brightest to public service.



# reducing the influence of money in politics

***Under the Harris-Eves government, money has too much influence and you have too little. They raised donation limits to unprecedented levels and virtually eliminated spending restrictions on political parties. They spent more money on election campaigns and leadership contests than any party in Ontario history.***

***Rules for political contributions and expenditures should not be set by those who can benefit. You will set limits on the role of money in politics.***

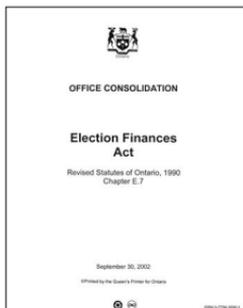
The Harris-Eves government opened the door to big money in Ontario politics. They effectively eliminated spending limits. They increased contribution ceilings by nearly 80% and more than doubled the limit on tax-deductible corporate political donations.

## **The Harris-Eves Record: Money and Politics**

- Increased annual individual donation limits by 78%, from \$7,000 to \$12,500.
- Increased election year donation limits from \$14,000 to \$25,000.
- Effectively abolished election spending limits, by excluded spending on major categories like “research” and Leader’s tour.
- More than doubled the limit on tax-deductible corporate gifts to political parties, from \$7,000 per year to \$15,000.

We believe that public decisions must be made in the public interest, not in the interests of a few well-financed political supporters. That is why we will give you real power to decide what role money should play in the political process.

## ***Contribution and spending limits***



## **You will have the right to set lower limits on money in politics.**

We need strict limits on how much money political parties can raise and spend. You should set those limits, not the people who benefit from them. We will ask you and your fellow citizens to set those limits through Citizens' Juries. They will also set fines for abuse of those limits.

Limits on raising and spending money should not be limited to the brief few weeks of an election campaign. In modern politics, much of the "campaign" spending occurs before the election is even called.

Leadership contests are a free-for-all when it comes to raising and spending money. Ernie Eves collected more than \$6 million to win the 2002 PC leadership – more than any party, much less individual, could legally spend during the province-wide election campaign in 1999.

Citizens' Juries will be authorized to establish spending and contribution limits to apply to both pre-election spending and party leadership contests.

## ***Real-time disclosure***

## **We will fully disclose donations in real time.**

You deserve to know who donates to political parties as those donations happen. We will make sure contributions are disclosed in real time, as they occur, and made public over the Internet.

The same process will apply for real-time disclosure of contributions and expenses during party leadership contests.

# accountability for your tax dollars

***No government has ever spent more of your money and given you less in return than the Harris-Eves government. You deserve a government that respects the value of your hard-earned tax dollars.***

## **The Harris-Eves Record: Wasting Your Money**

- Sold Highway 407 for a fraction of its value, then sold out commuters by allowing skyrocketing tolls.
- Wasted \$662 million on private consultants last year alone.
- Wasted more than \$250 million on partisan government ads.
- More than doubled spending in the Premier's/Cabinet Offices since 1995.

The Harris-Eves government treats your money like it is their own. We think that is irresponsible.

We will treat your hard-earned tax dollars with respect. We will deliver a government that works as hard as you do to deliver value for your money.

## **Balanced budgets**

### **We will balance the budget.**

We will live within our means by balancing the budget and not adding to the debt.

The Harris-Eves government added \$21 billion to the debt and was the second last government in Canada to balance their budget. We will comply with the *Taxpayer Protection Act* and balanced budget legislation, not bend the law at whim.



**Respect for the people's House**

**We will table the provincial budget where it belongs – in the Legislature.**



It is a well-respected tradition to present the provincial budget in the people's House – the Legislature of Ontario.

In 2003, the Ernie Eves government made a mockery of that tradition and of our democracy. The Ernie Eves government presented a "budget" in a makeshift television studio before a handpicked audience – a contemptible, unconstitutional attempt to escape public scrutiny.

Every Liberal budget will be presented where it belongs, before the people's representatives in the Ontario Legislature.

### The Harris-Eves Record: Canada's First Unconstitutional Budget

*"This decision is a gross affront to parliamentary democracy. It is an act of arrogance without precedent in the history of Canada."*

– Robert Marleau, Former Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons

*"....there is a constitutional convention requiring the Government to announce its Budget in the Legislative Assembly. The Government's proposal to give its Budget Speech outside of the House is thus unconstitutional."*

– Legal Opinion of Neil Finkelstein, Constitutional Lawyer, as delivered to Speaker Gary Carr

### No partisan advertising



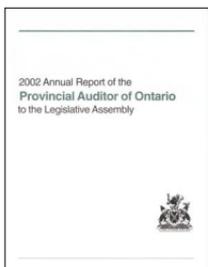
### We will ban self-promotional government advertising.

The Harris-Eves government has wasted over \$250 million of your tax dollars on self-promotional television, radio and print advertisements. Every dollar spent on self-serving ads is a dollar less for classrooms, water inspectors or CT scans.

We will implement the McGuinty bill to ban self-promotional government advertising and authorize the Provincial Auditor to review and approve all government advertising in advance.

***"First, Ernie Eves's government shouldn't be using millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to distribute what amounts to Tory party propaganda. And second, this pamphlet is another phase in the campaign to sell the budget to the voters before submitting it to the Ontario legislature – that is, another attempt to subvert parliamentary democracy."***

– Anthony Westell, *The Globe and Mail*, April 22, 2003

**More budget scrutiny****Open government****We will make the budget more accountable by expanding the powers of the Provincial Auditor.**

The Harris-Eves government hides half of the budget from the Provincial Auditor. They deny him access to the province's balance sheet when it comes to spending by hospitals, universities, school boards, the hydro companies and other major organizations funded by the people of Ontario. We will give the Auditor the power to scrutinize them all so that you know whether your dollars are being well spent.

**We will make the government's business your business.**

The Harris-Eves government has treated public disclosure as a threat to effective government. We see it as exactly the opposite – a basic right and an essential means of ensuring that decisions are made in the public interest.

Under the Harris-Eves government, the public has no right to know the details, and therefore no ability to judge the merits, of major transactions such as the sale of highway 407 or salary and severance provisions for executives of key corporations like Hydro One.

We will require that all future contracts signed by the government be subject to public scrutiny, including calls to tender, successful bids, asset sales and long-term leases.

Where legitimate confidentiality concerns prevent certain provisions from being released, we will make them available to the Provincial Auditor to make a public interest ruling.

You have a right to know how your money is being spent. We will make sure you can exercise it.



# you have a choice

**A choice between a tired, cynical government that is out for itself or an energetic, responsible government that works hard for you.**

**Between a government that undermines public institutions to serve private interests or one that puts the public first.**

**Between a government that shuts you out or one that invites you in.**

**Choose change. Choose government that works for you.**

**Choose Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberals.**



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