

PROGRESS REPORT 2005



Working Together For A Better Ontario



Ontario

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Achieving Results in Ontario

Ontario is changing for the better.

Students are doing better. New investments have led to smaller classes in the early grades and improved skills in reading, writing and math. Teachers are learning new skills, and specialists in reading and math are giving struggling students the extra help they need.

We're improving our approach to health. Ontario has shorter wait times for key medical procedures, better access to doctors and nurses through family health teams and a new emphasis on making healthy choices.

Ontarians are building a stronger economy. We've seen the economy create more than 215,000 jobs over the last two years. Historic investments in postsecondary education will help ensure Ontario remains the place to be for years to come.

Ontarians are reaching higher and our government is helping them achieve their goals.

Our government is making progress on our plan to strengthen Ontario by strengthening its people.

Our key priorities are:

- ➔ **Success for Students**
- ➔ **Better Health**
- ➔ **Strong People, Strong Economy.**

Today's citizens want to know more than how much their government is spending — they want to see results that make a difference in their lives and in their communities.

This is the second in a series of progress reports on the government's plan for education, health care and our economy. Our province is growing stronger because together we are strengthening its greatest asset: the people of Ontario.

success for students



Success for Students

Public education is the most important investment we can make in our future. Strong public schools are the foundation for a strong economy and a cohesive society.

Every Child Strategy to improve reading, writing and math achievement:

→ Children learn better in smaller classes with more individual attention. More than 2,100 schools have reduced their primary class sizes. We are on track to have class sizes of 20 students in junior kindergarten to Grade 3 by 2007-08.

→ Student success starts with high-quality, accessible childcare and early learning. Children will have access to almost 25,000 more licensed child care spaces in Ontario over the next three years. This is in addition to the 4,000 new subsidized spaces the government created in 2004-05.

→ So far, 25 per cent of school boards have introduced early screening of kindergarten and Grade 1 students to identify children with potential learning problems so they can get help before they fall too far behind.

→ Students and teachers need peace and stability. For the first time, four-year collective agreements are in place, guaranteeing no strikes during that period.

HIGHER READING, WRITING AND MATH ACHIEVEMENT

→ **Target:** Increase to 75 per cent the percentage of Grade 6 students performing at or above the standard on provincial reading and math tests.

→ Students, teachers and principals are getting new resources.

→ Another 600 specialist teachers are in classrooms for the 2005-06 school year to help struggling students and teach phys-ed, music and the arts.

→ The creation of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat brought together many of the best and brightest educators in the province to enhance teachers' skills, develop school leadership, target resources and coordinate efforts at all levels of learning.

→ We've trained more than 16,000 elementary lead teachers.

"A smaller class allowed my son's teacher to really get to know him and his abilities. A smaller class size has helped us develop a learning plan that works for him."

– Julie Hillwood

success for students

Progress on Results

Test scores have risen to an average of 62 per cent from 54 per cent as a result of the Every Child Strategy.

In 2003-04 tests, the percentage of Grade 6 students reaching the provincial standard rose from 53 per cent to 57 per cent in math, from 56 per cent to 58 per cent in reading and it remained stable at 54 per cent in writing.

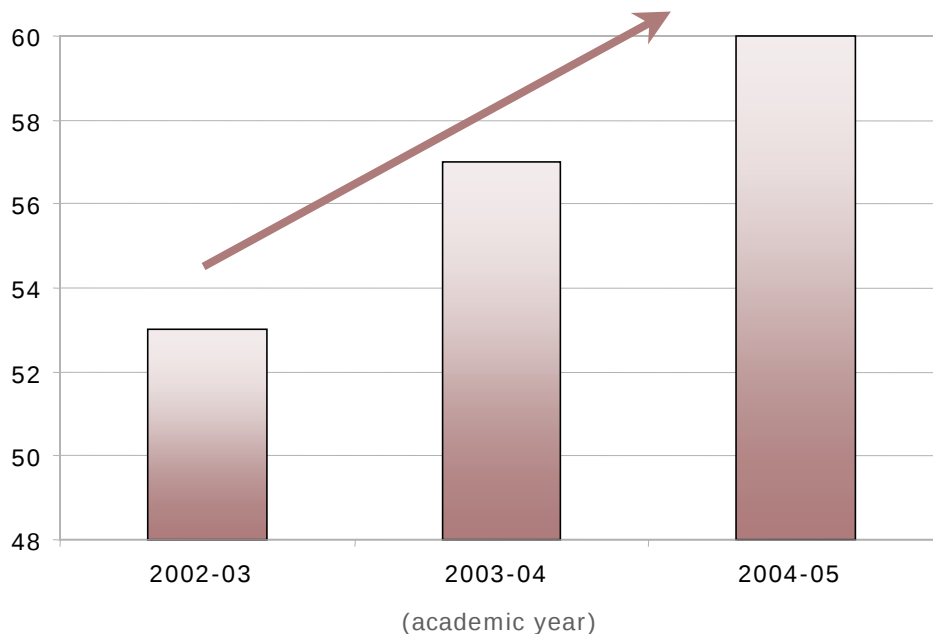
Grade 3 students improved their test scores significantly. The percentage reaching the provincial standard increased from 57 per cent to 64 per cent in math, from 50 per cent to 54 per cent in reading and from 55 per cent to 58 per cent in writing.

In 2004-05, more students performed at or above the provincial standard and Ontario is getting closer to the goal of 75 per cent of Grade 6 students meeting the provincial standard by the 2007-08 school year.

In Grade 6, results improved in math by 3 per cent to 60 per cent, in reading by 5 per cent to 63 per cent and in writing by 5 per cent to 59 per cent.

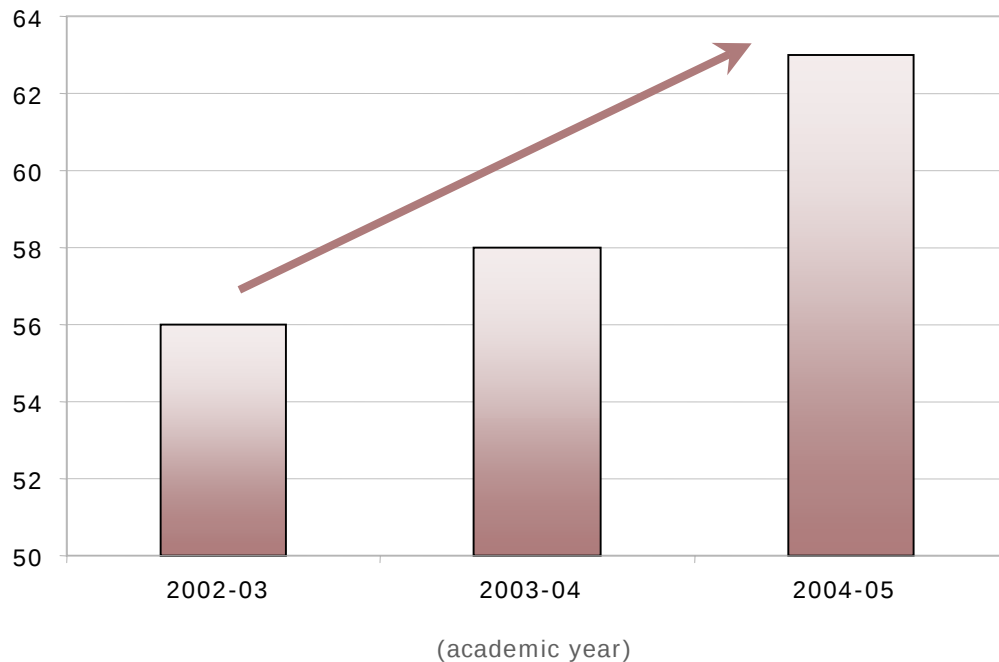
In Grade 3, results improved in math by 2 per cent to 66 per cent, in reading by 5 per cent to 59 per cent and in writing by 3 per cent to 61 per cent.

**Percentage of Grade 6 Students Achieving
Provincial Standard in Math**



success for students

Percentage of Grade 6 Students Achieving
Provincial Standard in Reading



“Students (in a new state-of-the-art construction technology facility) will be earning credits that they would have struggled to achieve sitting in a computer or science class. This program is giving students new career options while keeping them in school learning.”

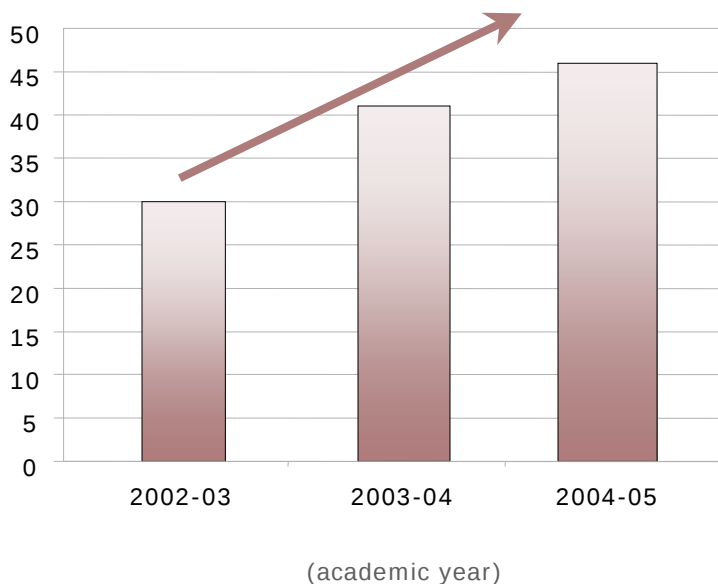
– Jim Spyropoulos, Principal of
Newtonbrook Secondary School in
Toronto

success for students

Improving school performance:

- Turnaround teams of experts went to 57 more elementary schools last year — and 100 are at work in struggling schools.
- The government is helping ensure that every dollar meant for special education reaches students.
- We have invested \$61 million this year in extra funding to buy 1 million new textbooks and library resources throughout Ontario.
- Over 295,000 students are already benefiting from last year's \$18 million investment in 160 local school board projects designed to improve reading, writing and math skills. Another \$18 million will be invested in these types of projects this year.

**Percentage of Students at or Above
Provincial Standard in Grade 3 Reading in
Schools with Turnaround Teams**



IMPROVED SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

- **Target:** Improve the performance of schools where two-thirds or more of students do not meet the provincial standard in Grade 3 reading tests.

Progress on Results

Students in 100 schools with turnaround teams have dramatically improved their test results.

Turnaround teams improved student results on the Grade 3 reading test by an average of 33 per cent.

“When I see the completed house I worked on, I will feel more satisfaction than I ever have with a book of notes.”

– Alex Lawson, Grade 12 student participating in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's New House Construction Program

success for students

Increasing the graduation rate:

- Students bound for apprenticeship or the workplace are getting the skills and experience they need through the Student Success Program.
- School boards are helping students who have left school to make a successful transition to work, apprenticeship or back to school through 105 programs.
- Student success leaders in each school board are coordinating programs so struggling students receive the support they need to graduate.
- Class size limits were established for some applied courses in secondary schools.



INCREASING GRADUATION RATES

- **Target:** Reduce the number of students who leave high school without a diploma.

Progress on Results

Ontario's drop-out rate is starting to decline because of the province's aggressive plan to turn struggling students into successful graduates. The number of students who graduate after five years in high school has gone up — from 68 per cent in 2003-04 to an estimated 72 per cent in 2004-05.

The government is placing a stronger emphasis on success for all students in high school. Legislation has been introduced to make learning — in school or in a skills program — mandatory until age 18.

The hiring of 1,300 new high school teachers will ensure each school has at least one Student Success Teacher devoted to ensuring students have the support and programs they need to be successful.



Better Health

Our government's plan is to do more to help people stay healthy, to provide better care for them if they become sick, and to do what is necessary to sustain medicare for generations to come.

Reducing wait times for key health care services:

- ➔ The government is increasing the number of key medical procedures across Ontario and reducing wait times.
- ➔ Hospitals received funding to perform 40,000 or 14.5 per cent more MRI exams in 2004-05. New investments are providing for approximately 76,800 or 24 per cent more MRI exams in 2005-06. In addition, 81,300 or eight per cent more CT scans were provided in 2004-05.
- ➔ In 2004-05, health facilities got funding to perform 1,700 more cancer surgeries, 2,400 or 10 per cent more hip and knee joint replacements and 2,000 or two per cent more cataract surgeries.
- ➔ In 2005-06, the government is funding over 2,900 more cancer surgeries, more than 4,300 or 16 per cent more hip and knee joint replacements, 14,000 or 13 per cent more cataract surgeries, and almost 7,000 or seven per cent more cardiac procedures.
- ➔ The government invested a record \$1.3 billion in home care in 2004-05 to provide services to almost 452,000 Ontarians.

SHORTER WAIT TIMES

- ➔ **Target:** Reduce wait times for MRIs and CT scans, cancer surgery, cataract and cardiac procedures and hip and knee replacements.

Progress on Results

The government has launched a website that allows Ontarians to get information on wait times for key surgical procedures at local hospitals, and to see whether a procedure is available sooner at other hospitals.

The web-based information system will help professionals set priorities based on patients' needs and let the public follow the government's progress as it improves wait times.

“Nurse practitioners look forward to participating in a model that provides interdisciplinary care and improves access to quality care.”

– Theresa Agnew, Chair, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario

better health



“We applaud the government’s commitment to making Ontario 100 per cent smoke-free and for responding to the concerns of the health care community ... A smoke-free Ontario is not only good public health policy, it’s an admirable goal that will save countless lives.”

– Rocco Rossi, Chief Executive Officer, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario

“My colleagues and I are very excited about exploring new ways of working together to improve the quality of primary care in our community. Our Family Health Team will help link important primary care services and provide patients with greater access to the care they need, when they need it, right here in our community.”

– Dr. Sean Blaine, lead physician of the Perth County Family Health Team

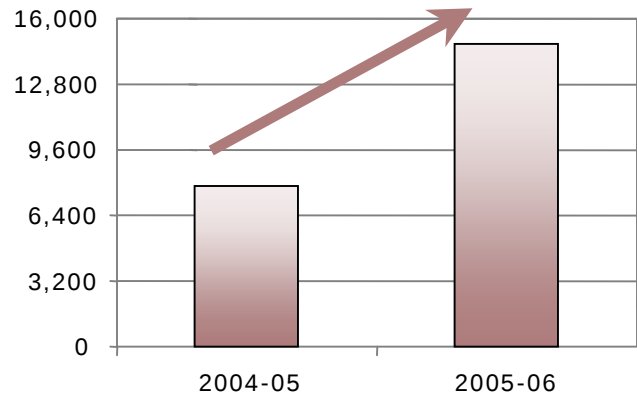
“The government’s support will enable us to revitalize our post-graduate family medicine program. It will send a strong signal to graduating students that family medicine is a highly valued field of medicine, and an extremely rewarding career choice.”

– Dr. David Naylor, former Dean of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine (currently President of the University of Toronto)

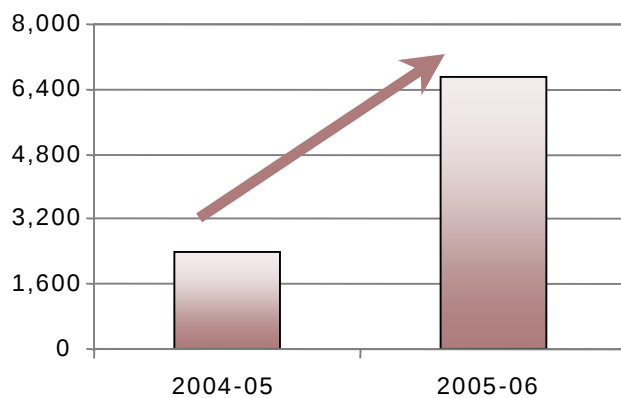
better health

Health Care Results: More Key Procedures

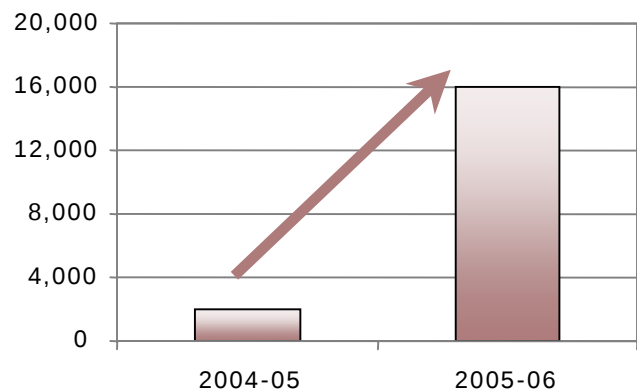
Selected Cardiac Procedures



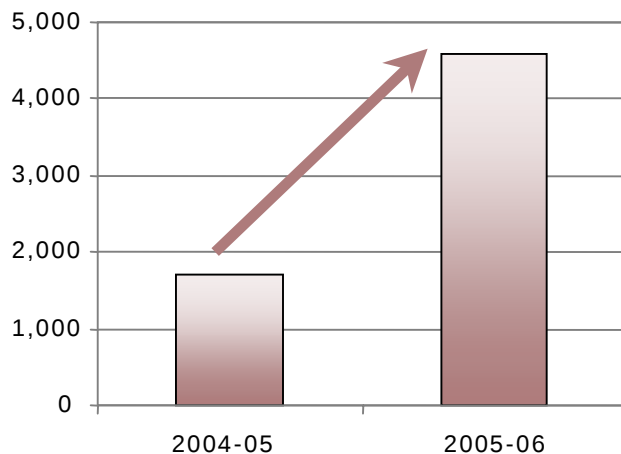
Hip and Knee Joint Replacements



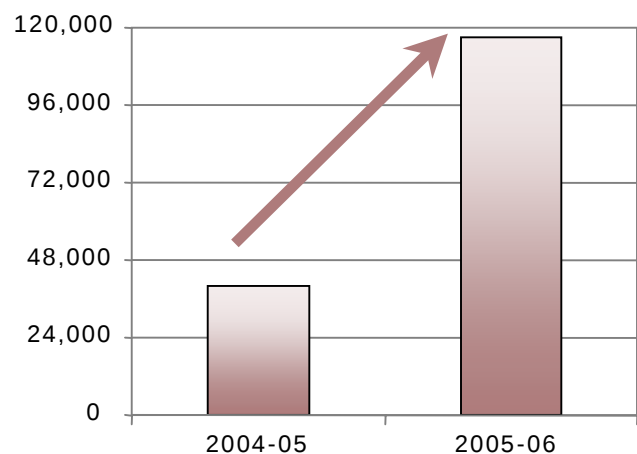
Cataract Surgeries



Cancer Surgeries



MRI Exams



MORE ACCESS TO CARE

➔ **Target:**

Establish 150 Family Health Teams to provide comprehensive primary care.

“Ontarians need access to health care teams to help them manage complex health problems including diabetes. We welcome this multi-disciplinary approach and the inclusion of nurses, dietitians and other health care providers on Family Health Teams.”

– Michael Howlett,
President and
Chief Executive
Officer, Canadian
Diabetes
Association

Improving access to care:

The government is on track to meet the target of 150 Family Health Teams (FHTs) by 2007-08. 100 Family Health Teams have been approved and will improve access to primary health care for more than 1.7 million Ontarians in 77 communities.

Doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners and other health professionals such as pharmacists, social workers and dietitians are working together to provide accessible and comprehensive care in FHTs. Doctors working in these teams see up to 52 per cent more patients than those practicing on their own.

➔ The government is expanding services to over 300,000 Ontarians by increasing investment in 54 existing Community Health Centres (CHCs) and 10 CHC satellites. This year, the government announced 22 new CHCs and 17 new satellites across the province.

➔ The new four-year agreement with the Ontario Medical Association will help bring more doctors to underserved communities, support doctors who spend more time treating seniors and patients with chronic conditions and encourage preventative care.

➔ The government is expanding the number of family physicians. A 70 per cent increase in family residency positions at five Ontario medical schools over the next two years will result in 337 more family doctors ready to practice by 2008.

➔ There are 32 new first-year medical school spaces this year, rising to 160 spaces by 2008-09, for an increase of 23 per cent.

➔ The Northern Ontario School of Medicine opened in September 2005, increasing access to doctors in the north.

➔ International medical graduates (IMGs) are qualifying to practice as doctors in Ontario more quickly and easily and the number of training and assessment positions for IMGs have more than doubled to 200 per year.

➔ The government has funded more than 3,000 new nursing positions in hospitals, long-term care homes, home care and community care agencies since coming to office.

better health

Progress on Results

The government is on track to meet the target of 150 Family Health Teams by 2007-08. We are improving access to family care for more than 1.7 million Ontarians in 77 communities by approving 100 FHTs. The government has exceeded the original target of 45 for spring 2005.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons reports that, in 2004, it issued the highest number of medical licences in almost 20 years. This was also the first year when more certificates were issued to international medical graduates than to Ontario graduates.

The Ontario Health Quality Council, an independent body formed to monitor the health care system and publicly report on how well it is performing, was launched in September 2005 and will release its first report in March 2006.

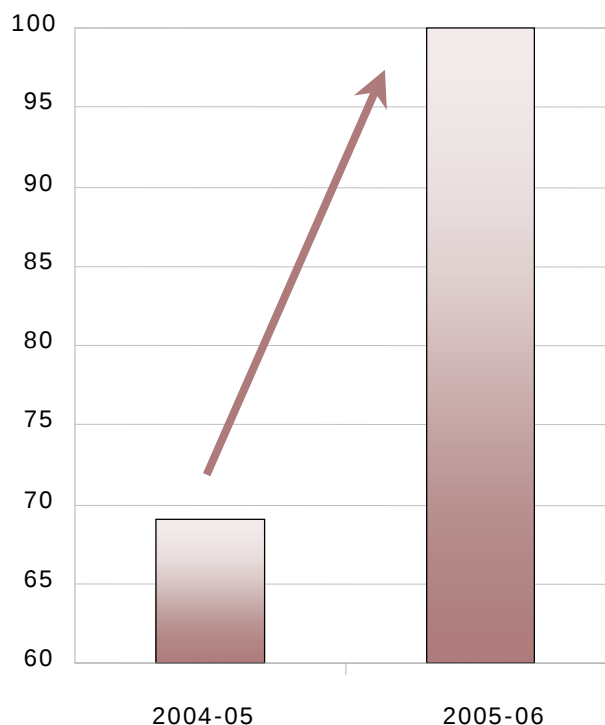
The government established 14 Local Health Integration Networks to plan, coordinate and fund the delivery of health care services across the province.

“Ontario’s doctors treat those who suffer the effects of air pollution and we’re pleased that such a significant source of this pollution is being shut down.”

– Dr. John Rapin, former President of the Ontario Medical Association on the closing of Lakeview Generating Station



Number of Family Health Teams Announced



PREVENTING ILLNESS, PROMOTING WELLNESS

➔ **Target:** Reduce illnesses from smoking, obesity and environmental pollution.

Preventing illness and promoting wellness:

The government is taking action to provide more tools that help people lead healthy lives.

The Premier has appointed Ontario's first Minister of Health Promotion to promote healthy, active living and illness and injury prevention.

➔ The Smoke-Free Ontario Act will remove smoking from all enclosed public places and workplaces as of May 31, 2006.

➔ Young people are committed to making better choices and providing each other with the information they need to live healthy lives. We're supporting their efforts through www.stupid.ca, an anti-smoking campaign created by youth, for youth.

➔ Junk food has been removed from all vending machines in elementary schools.

➔ The government is encouraging all Ontarians to make physical activity a part of their daily lives.

➔ The government is supporting active lifestyles by reconnecting school gyms and fields to neighbourhood non-profit groups by helping to cover the costs of community use of schools.

➔ ACTIVE2010 is increasing awareness of the benefits of physical activity to help ensure that 55 per cent of adult Ontarians are physically active by 2010. It will help municipal, not-for-profit and Aboriginal organizations provide opportunities for physical activity, community sport and recreation.

➔ We are shutting down five coal-fired generating plants. Lakeview Generating Station, formerly the single-biggest source of air pollution in the Greater Toronto Area, was the first to close under this plan.

➔ The government has added three new vaccines (for chicken pox, meningococcal meningitis and pneumococcal disease) as free, routine childhood immunizations.

➔ In 2004-05, the government is providing more than 802,000 vaccinations — saving families up to \$600 per child.

➔ The government's share of public health funding is rising from 50 per cent to 75 per cent by January 2007.

➔ The government has created the Operation Health Protection action plan to revitalize the public health system to prevent and better deal with health emergencies like SARS.

Progress on Results

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act has passed.

Junk food has been banned in schools.

The Lakeview Generating Station has closed.

strong people, strong economy



Strong People, Strong Economy

Our greatest asset is our people. In the knowledge economy, the most valuable commodity is a highly skilled workforce.

INCREASE EDUCATION AND SKILLS

→ **Target:** Increase participation in postsecondary education and skills training.



Building a strong economy by investing in skills for the future:

→ The government's five-year, \$6.2 billion Reaching Higher Plan will significantly increase access to college and university and the quality of education provided.

→ The government has increased financial aid for 135,000 low- and middle-income students in 2005-06. This year 32,000 first- and second-year students are receiving grants, instead of loans — the first time this has happened in over a decade.

→ New Canadians, Aboriginals, persons with disabilities, francophones and students who are the first in their family to pursue postsecondary studies will have greater opportunities to pursue higher education.

→ Under the Labour Market Development Agreement, over six years, the federal government will transfer \$2.473 billion in existing training and employment programs to Ontario.

→ Under the Labour Market Partnership Agreement, the federal government will also invest an additional \$1.368 billion in Ontario over six years to expand apprenticeship, help recent immigrants enter the job market, strengthen literacy and essential skills, strengthen workplace skills development and assist Aboriginal peoples and others facing labour market barriers.

→ The Higher Education Quality Council, a new, arm's-length agency, will support quality improvement in postsecondary education.

strong people, strong economy

“As an employer who has brought on a Career Bridge intern, I can say firsthand that the program works. For the past six and a half months, Sanjay Ray, our Career Bridge intern, has been working in the human resources department within Manulife’s investment division. It has been a learning experience for Sanjay and it has also been one for Manulife. Sanjay and Manulife are both realizing how transferable his skills and experience are.”

– Diane M. Bean, Executive Vice-President for Corporate Affairs and Human Resources at Manulife Financial

- ➔ The government is providing spaces for 14,000 more graduate students and \$220 million in additional support by 2009-10.
- ➔ The government is investing an additional \$17.5 million annually by 2007-08 to expand access to labour-market services for new Canadians and prospective apprentices. This builds on previous investments to increase new apprenticeship spaces by 7,000 by 2007-08 — a 37 per cent increase.
- ➔ The new Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit is encouraging employers to take on more apprentices in the skilled trades.

Progress on Results

The government is increasing full-time enrolment in colleges and universities by 50,000 students and is committed to increasing the number of apprenticeship registrants by 7,000 for a total of 26,000 a year.

The government is investing \$211 million as part of the Quality Improvement Fund to help postsecondary institutions hire more faculty and improve student resources.



strong people, strong economy

CAPITALIZING ON DIVERSITY

→ **Target:** Increase the percentage of internationally trained people becoming qualified to work in Ontario.

Progress on Results

To strengthen bridge training programs, the government is investing an additional \$7.5 million over three years.

→ Average annual spending on settlement services and adult language training will rise from \$819 per immigrant to approximately \$3,400 per immigrant under the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement.

Accelerating the integration of immigrants into the workforce:

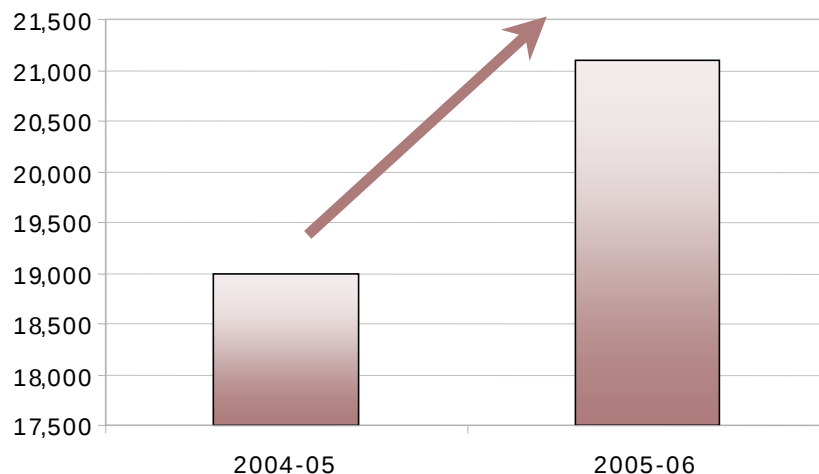
→ A federal-provincial agreement will quadruple funding over the next five years for settlement, language training, integration and programs for immigrants who come to Ontario.

→ The government is working with professional regulatory bodies to eliminate barriers facing internationally trained newcomers.

→ To help newcomers get a start, more than 35 bridge training projects are helping internationally trained individuals become qualified to work in Ontario.

→ Thirteen Enhanced Language-Training projects, funded by the federal and provincial governments, focused on higher-level, occupation-specific language training.

New Apprenticeship Registrations



strong people, strong economy

A COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

→ **Target:** Ensure a competitive business environment that will attract jobs and investment.

Creating a competitive business climate that will attract jobs and investment:

→ To strengthen Ontario's fiscal position, Premier McGuinty fought to narrow a \$23 billion gap between what Ontarians send the federal government in taxes and what we get back in programs and services.

→ In May 2005, the federal government agreed to commit \$5.75 billion in additional federal funding to Ontario priorities over the next five years.

→ We are working with the federal government to develop a single corporate income tax collection system to improve service delivery for business.

→ The 2005 Budget projects a balanced budget by 2008-09 at the latest. In 2004-05, the deficit was reduced to \$1.6 billion — down from \$5.5 billion when the government took office.

→ The ReNew Ontario five-year, \$30 billion infrastructure investment plan includes \$11.4 billion for public transit, highways, borders and other transportation systems. This investment will help fight gridlock through improvements to public transit service, better conditions on provincial highways and improved traffic flow at border crossings.

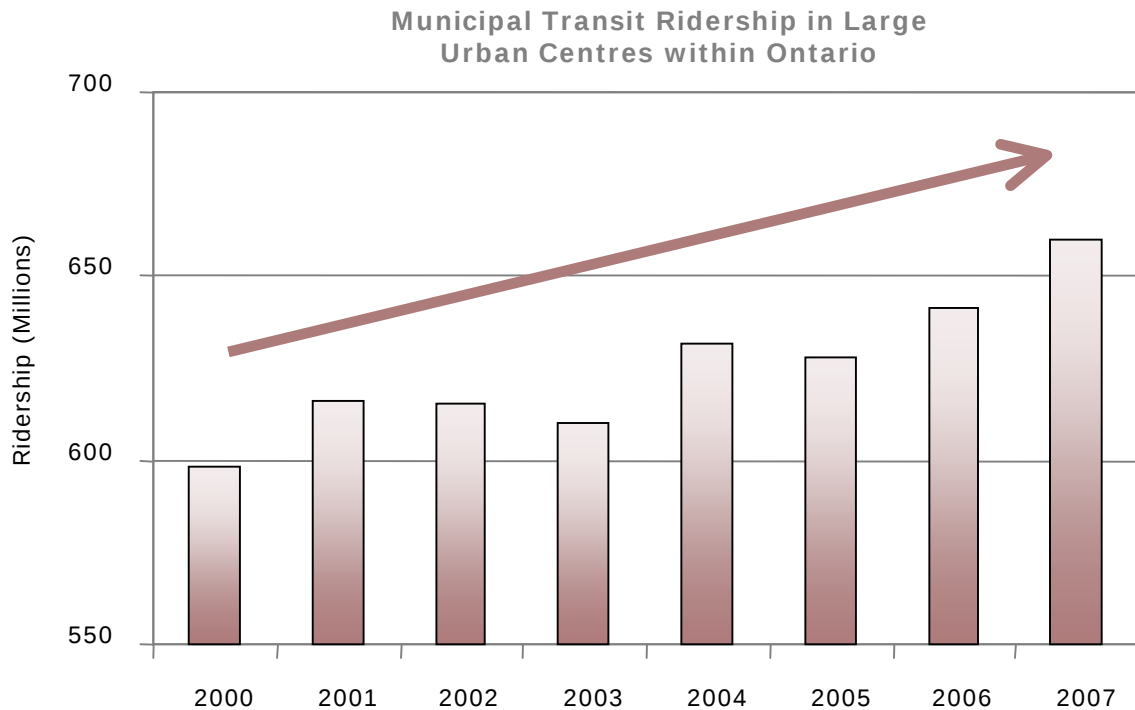
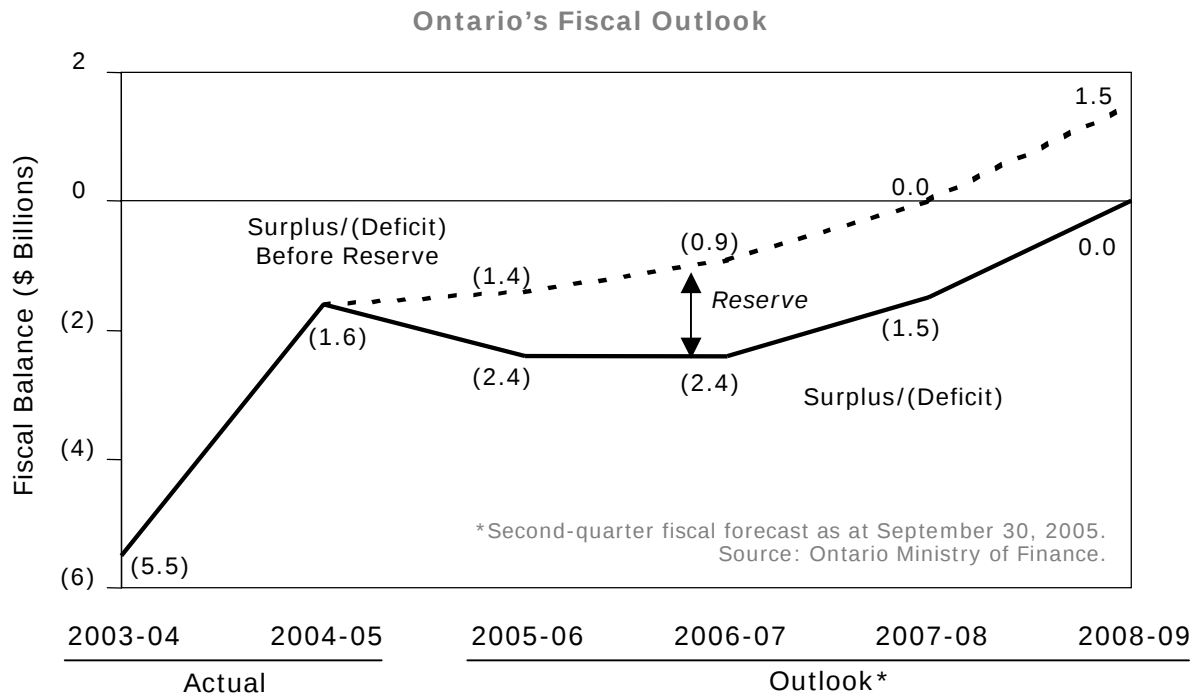
→ The government is protecting one million additional acres of greenspace in the Golden Horseshoe through the creation of a Greenbelt.

→ The government is ensuring that capital markets are fair and efficient, with high standards of investor protection, including new rights for investors to sue public companies for misleading or untimely disclosures.



strong people,
strong economy

strong people, strong economy



strong people, strong economy

Securing Jobs and Investment Through Skills and Innovation

→ Thousands of Ontario families rely on auto manufacturing for their jobs. The industry accounts for 20 per cent of all manufacturing output. Ontario's Automotive Investment Strategy is attracting skilled, high-paying jobs to the province.

→ The Premier is heading the new Ministry of Research and Innovation which will help focus Ontario's ability to discover and market new ideas.

→ The government has committed \$142 million over four years to create the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

→ The government is investing \$517 million over four years to support leading-edge research through Ontario's public and not-for-profit R&D institutions.

→ To help farmers and industry hit by the repercussions of BSE, the government delivered \$117 million.

→ All gasoline sold in Ontario must contain an average of five per cent ethanol by 2007. This initiative could generate as much as \$500 million in new investment in rural Ontario.

→ The government is taking action to stimulate growth, create jobs and promote a better quality of life for northern Ontario including a commitment to provide \$680 million to support the forestry sector.

→ The Northern Prosperity Plan includes investing \$1.8 billion over five years on northern highways, \$60 million per year to foster job creation and \$15 million over three years to map mineral potential.

"Infrastructure investment of this magnitude is critical to a robust and successful economy. We applaud the government for this plan."

– Len Crispino, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Progress on Results

In the past two years, the government's strategic investments have led to more than \$5.5 billion in new auto investments by supporting skills training, innovation, public infrastructure, new environmental technologies and energy efficiencies.

The government is committing up to \$335 million to leading-edge manufacturing projects at Ford's Oakville plant, at the CAMI plant in Ingersoll, GM facilities in Oshawa and St. Catharines and at two universities: the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and McMaster.

A government investment of up to \$70 million secured an \$800 million investment to help build a new Toyota plant in Woodstock.

strong people, strong economy

MODERN, EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES

➔ **Target:** Deliver timely, cost-effective and accountable public services.

Progress on Results

The percentage of people satisfied with government services on the web is up seven percentage points for both individuals and business, to 77 per cent and 80 per cent respectively.

More than half of our \$750 million savings target by 2007-08 has been identified.



Delivering modern, efficient public services:

➔ The new Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act requires that provincial finances be reviewed — and made public — before an election.

➔ The ServiceOntario website simplifies government services for citizens.

➔ Ontarians who fill out birth certificate applications online will get their certificate within 15 business days — or they will get their money back.

➔ To ensure women and children receive the money to which they are entitled, the Family Responsibility Office is improving the enforcement of family support orders.

➔ The Auditor General now has the authority to conduct value-for-money audits of school boards and hospitals, universities and colleges, and Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation.

strong people, strong economy

Securing Ontario's energy supply for the future:

➔ Since October 2003, more than 2,700 megawatts of power have come on line. The government has put the wheels in motion to produce well over 9,000 additional megawatts of diversified generating capacity by 2010.

➔ This total includes 395 megawatts from 10 new renewable energy projects that have received the go-ahead, as well as a further 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy — enough to power 250,000 homes.

➔ The Ontario Power Authority, created to ensure Ontario has a secure supply of electricity, and the Conservation Bureau, established to develop energy conservation incentive programs, are up and running.

RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE ENERGY

➔ **Target:** Ensure a reliable energy supply.

Progress on Results

Green energy projects are expected to let Ontario generate at least five per cent (1,350 MW) of total energy capacity from new renewable sources by 2007.

An innovative approach to pricing will be supported by plans to install a smart electricity meter in 800,000 homes and businesses by 2007, and to replace all of our province's meters by 2010.

Major projects to increase the supply of power include boosting the output of the Sir Adam Beck Generating Complex, studying a proposed hydroelectric power project in northern Manitoba at Conawapa and reaching a deal with Bruce Power to restart Bruce A Units 1 and 2.

The Shared Air Summit 05, a conference of leading experts from the U.S. and Canada, was brought together by the Premier to work on regional solutions to the problem of air pollution.

A Renewable Fuels Standard, requiring an average of five per cent ethanol in all gasoline sold in Ontario by January 1, 2007, will boost ethanol production with a \$520-million, 12-year fund.

More than \$1 billion in provincial gas tax funding over the next five years in 83 transit systems across Ontario will help get cars off the road and reduce emissions.

strengthening Ontario



Strengthening Ontario Together

Ontarians are helping to build a stronger economy and new investments are helping to make a difference.

Student success in the early grades is laying the foundation for higher achievements in high school and beyond.

More doctors and nurses mean better access to health care and healthier lives for Ontarians.

Excellence in postsecondary education will create a new generation of leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs to give Ontario an edge in the knowledge-based economy.

We're getting there because Ontarians are striving for better results and working with our government to reach goals we all share. Each generation of Ontarians faces its own challenge. The challenge for our generation is to work together to strengthen our people.

The people of this province value their public schools and want to make them better. They believe in universal, public health care and want to make it stronger. They want the very best for their families and communities and will work hard to build a brighter future for all. The government is committed to targeting investments to support these key priorities.



PROGRESS REPORT 2005

[ontario.ca / progress](http://ontario.ca/progress)

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