

progress report 2006



getting results for Ontario families

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This is the third in a series of Progress Reports on our government's plan to deliver results for Ontario families and build opportunity for all Ontarians by strengthening their health, education and prosperity.

We've made significant progress since coming to office in 2003 and we're focused on three main priorities:

- **Success for students**
- **Better health**
- **Jobs and prosperity.**

We're getting the results Ontarians want, but there's more to do.

Class sizes are down — over 60 per cent of all primary classes are expected to have 20 students or less.

Test scores are up — 64 per cent of Grade 3 and 6 students overall are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing and math.

Health care wait times are down — the wait for an MRI exam is down by almost 25 per cent.

Access to doctors and nurses is up. Between 2005 and 2008, the number of first-year medical school spaces will rise 23 per cent.

Unemployment is down and 268,000 jobs have been created since October 2003.

Since coming to office, we have made real progress on our priorities. But we haven't achieved all of this on our own — we've made progress because our priorities are Ontarians' priorities.

Things have changed for the better — and will continue to improve — because Ontarians are working hard.

And we're working together.



Where we started three years ago:

- Many students were in overcrowded classes of more than 30 students.
- Only 54 per cent of Grade 3 and Grade 6 students overall met the provincial standard in reading, writing and math.
- Just 68 per cent of high school students were graduating.
- School buildings were crumbling and needed urgent repairs.
- Morale was low.

Results so far:

- Class sizes are down. This school year over 60 per cent of all primary classes are expected to have 20 students or less.
- Test scores are up. 64 per cent of Grade 3 and 6 students are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing and math.
- More students are graduating. The high school graduation rate is up to 71 per cent.
- Schools are being fixed. As of August 2006, over 3,000 construction projects were completed or underway. Our Good Places To Learn initiative is a renewal program that will support \$4 billion worth of repairs, renovations and new construction.
- There is peace and stability in our schools. Four-year collective agreements for teachers are in place, guaranteeing labour peace.

Progress on results:

☐ **Working together to make public education the best education**

We want to reduce class sizes in the early grades, boost test scores in reading, writing and math and help even more high school students graduate.

That's why we've been working together with students, parents and teachers to increase funding for education by \$2.7 billion, bringing the total investment to a record \$17.5 billion this school year — an increase of 21 per cent per student.



success for students

☐ Class sizes are down

School boards are on track to have class sizes of 20 students or fewer from junior kindergarten to Grade 3 by 2007-08. To help schools meet this goal, we have:

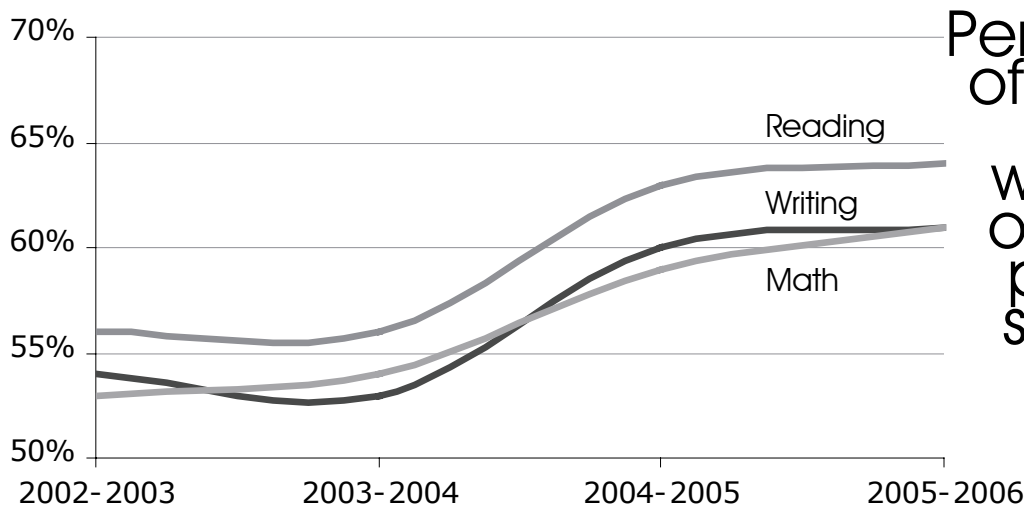
- Provided funds to hire approximately 1,200 new elementary teachers this school year — that makes 3,600 more elementary teachers since October 2003 to reduce class sizes in primary grades.
- Provided funding for 1,600 specialist teachers in music, art and physical education.
- Invested up to \$50 million this year to support an estimated \$700 million in capital projects needed to create more space for primary classes.

Approximately 16,000 teachers and principals have been trained so they can pass on their skills and expertise in their schools. To offer teachers more professional development, school boards have received \$23 million.

Turnaround teams are helping struggling schools boost achievement and improve test scores.

Students have new books and more library resources — \$35 million has been invested since 2004-05. To buy one million new textbooks for the classroom, we've invested \$44 million on books and other resources.

Investments in special education are reaching and helping students. This year, an additional \$83 million is available to support students in special education programs.



Percentage of Grade 6 students who meet or exceed provincial standards

☐ **The graduation rate is up**

Students bound for the workplace are getting the skills and experience that will help them succeed. More students are going on to higher learning and apprenticeship training. For the first time, every high school student has access to a student-success teacher who makes sure struggling students get the support they need.

Secondary schools that have developed successful programs for keeping kids in school are sharing their ideas with other schools across the province through innovative "lighthouse" projects. In 2006-07, there will be 159 new or expanded projects.

☐ **Repairing and upgrading schools**

We're supporting urgent work on school buildings — like replacing and repairing roofs, electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling systems and renewing libraries and gyms.

The Good Places to Learn initiative is funding \$4 billion worth of repairs, renovations and new construction in schools across the province.

☐ **Higher morale**

We've made sure that — for the first time — teachers have four-year collective agreements, guaranteeing labour peace. All of the 122 contract negotiations between school boards and teachers' federations have been settled.

To help improve reading, writing and math skills, we're working together with school boards and investing \$34 million in local projects.

This year, nutrition programs are serving healthy meals and snacks to 130,000 more students in Ontario — an increase of nearly 70 per cent over 2004-05.

Vending machines in elementary schools are no longer filled with junk food and daily physical activity is now a mandatory part of the school day.

Lynne Armstrong-Jones, a teacher with the Thames Valley District School Board, first wrote to the government out of concern that her school board was planning to increase class sizes for kindergartens. "I am writing now to thank you for the funding the government recently provided. This funding has allowed my class to be restored to me, and with a smaller pupil-to-teacher ratio. I cannot thank you enough for providing this. It is imperative that class sizes not be too large with young children."

Where we started three years ago:

- Patients were waiting too long to get the care they needed.
- There weren't enough doctors, nurses and other health care professionals to serve the needs of patients.
- There was no sustained focus on promoting wellness and preventing illness.

Results so far:

- Wait times are down for five key services — people are being seen anywhere from three to 63 days sooner than they were in 2005.
- 420,000 Ontarians who didn't have a family doctor now have one.
- For the first time in the history of Ontario, we have a Ministry of Health Promotion dedicated to encouraging healthier and more active lifestyles among Ontarians.

Progress on results:

☐ **Shorter Wait Times**

Since launching our Wait Times Strategy, we've invested \$611 million for additional procedures, including:

- 58,300 more cataract surgeries — leading to a reduction in wait times by 19.6 per cent
- 22,300 more hip and knee joint replacements — leading to a reduction in wait times by 17.9 per cent for hip replacements and 11.8 per cent for knee replacements
- 46,900 more cardiac procedures — leading to a reduction in wait times by 50 per cent for angiography and 25 per cent for angioplasty
- 11,200 more cancer surgeries — leading to a reduction in wait times by 3.7 per cent
- 365,000 more MRI exams — leading to a reduction in wait times by 23.3 per cent
- 234,500 more CT scans — leading to a reduction in wait times by 13.6 per cent.

For the first time, we're tracking wait times and making the information available through a wait times website (www.ontariowaittimes.com). The site has received more than one million visits from Ontarians to date.



better health

☐ More doctors and nurses

We've created 150 new Family Health Teams — doctors, nurses and other health care professionals (i.e., dietitians, pharmacists, social workers) who work together to provide around-the-clock care, seven days a week. About 420,000 people who didn't have a doctor now have access to primary care.

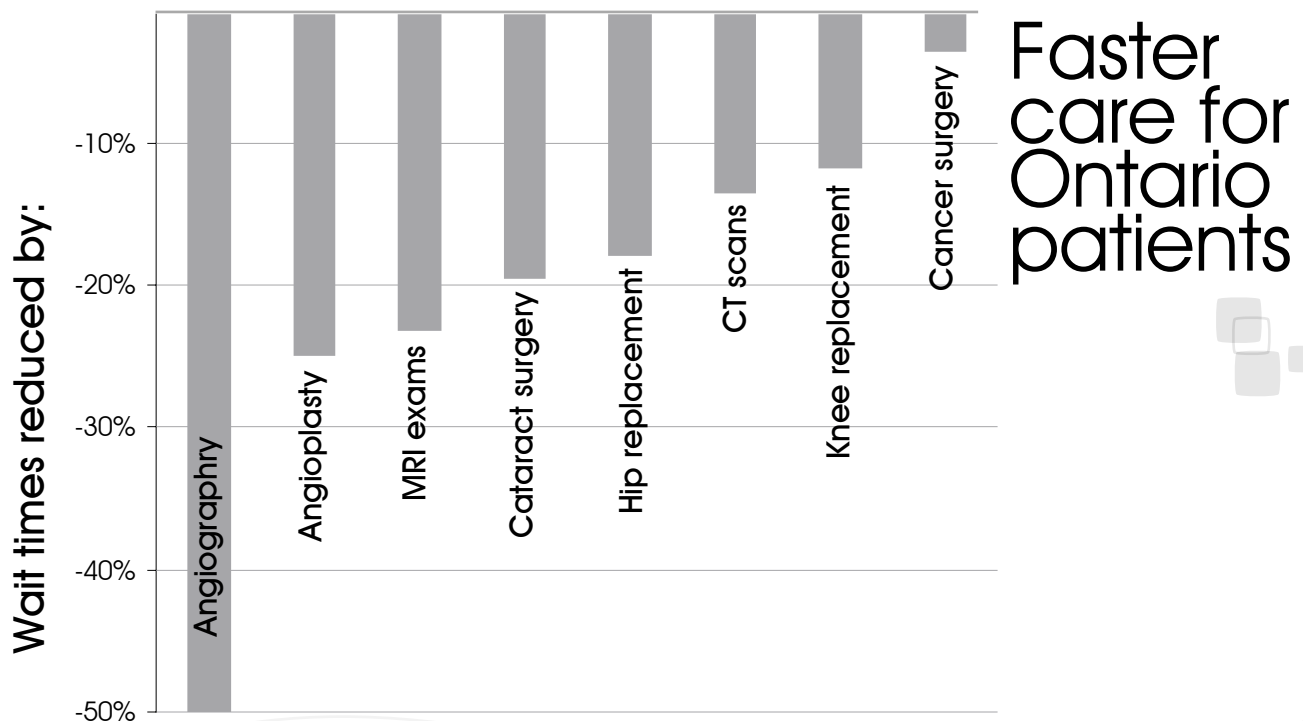
Medical school enrolment is being increased by 23 per cent.

- We've expanded family medicine training programs by 141 positions since 2003 — this 70 per cent increase will lead to 337 more family doctors in 2008.
- The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is now open — the first new medical school in 35 years and the first-ever located in northern Ontario.

We've funded 4,299 new nursing positions and introduced a job guarantee for new nursing graduates that will help ensure more nurses get jobs faster, so they can help deliver care to families sooner.

More nurse practitioners are being educated than ever before. Last year, Ontario universities admitted over 100 first-year students, with 150 spaces available this September.

We've more than doubled the number of training and assessment positions for international medical graduates from 90 to 200.





better health

Nearly 95,000 more acute and end-of-life care patients are receiving care this year through Community Care Access Centres. We've increased investments in home care by \$340 million since 2003.

To improve people's health and bring decision-making closer to home, 14 Local Health Integration Networks are engaging their communities to identify needs and priorities.

☐ Preventing illness, promoting wellness

The Ministry of Health Promotion is completely dedicated to health promotion and illness prevention, including the prevention of illness and injuries through more active and healthy lifestyles.

We have implemented the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which has created 100 per cent smoke-free enclosed public spaces and workplaces in the province. Tobacco consumption in Ontario has also fallen about 18 per cent since 2003.

Our Action Plan for Healthy Eating and Active Living includes a Northern Ontario Fruit and Vegetable pilot program for elementary school children, as well as the Eat Right Ontario dietician service which will be accessible for all Ontarians.

Children and youth across Ontario are on the road to better health with the launch of Canada's most comprehensive newborn screening program at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. We've increased the number of disorders for which newborns are screened from 2 to 27.

We've made three new vaccines available free of charge for chicken pox, meningococcal meningitis and pneumococcal disease, resulting in 1.2 million vaccinations that have saved Ontario families up to \$600 per child.

Ontario families deserve clean air to breathe. That's why we closed the single largest source of air pollution in the Greater Toronto Area — the Lakeview Generating Station.

We also depend on clean, safe water. The Clean Water Act was brought in to help protect our drinking water at the source. And the "You Spill, You Pay" legislation will force polluters to take responsibility for damage caused to our environment, with penalties for those who fail to comply.

Lynn Belecque is a patient of the Blue Sky Family Health Team in North Bay. She has used the team's evening clinic on several occasions. One night, Belecque brought her mother to the clinic, where she was diagnosed with bronchitis. There, she received care and is now on the road to recovery. "If the clinic wasn't available, I would have taken my mother to the emergency room," says Belecque. "I'm glad the team gives increased access during evening hours."

Where we started three years ago:

- Ontario wasn't investing in the skills and knowledge of its people.
- The province was falling behind in attracting high-value jobs.
- Ontario was not taking advantage of its potential to be a centre of innovation.
- There was no long-term plan for Ontario's energy future.

Results so far:

- There are 86,000 more full-time students enrolled in postsecondary education.
- 268,000 new jobs have been created since October 2003.
- Our investments have helped attract almost \$7 billion in new auto investments.
- We've made a \$1.7 billion commitment to boost innovation and commercialization.
- Since October 2003, more than 3,000 megawatts of power have come online. We have also advanced projects that will provide more than 10,000 megawatts of new electricity.

Progress on results:

☐ **Investing in people**

We are doubling student aid by 2009-10 so families can afford higher education. Improvements to OSAP this year will help about 145,000 Ontario students with additional financial support.

To create more higher education opportunities for Aboriginals, persons with disabilities, Francophones and students who are the first in their family to pursue postsecondary studies, we're investing \$15 million in 2006-07, rising to \$55 million in 2009-10.

To encourage students to pursue trades, create incentives for employers and help workers upgrade their skills, we created the \$2.1 billion Jobs and Skills Renewal Strategy.

We're on track to meet our goal of 26,000 new registered apprentices per year by 2007-08.

To help newcomers settle, improve their language skills and find employment, we are investing \$130 million in 2006-07 — more than any other province.

☐ **Attracting high-value jobs**

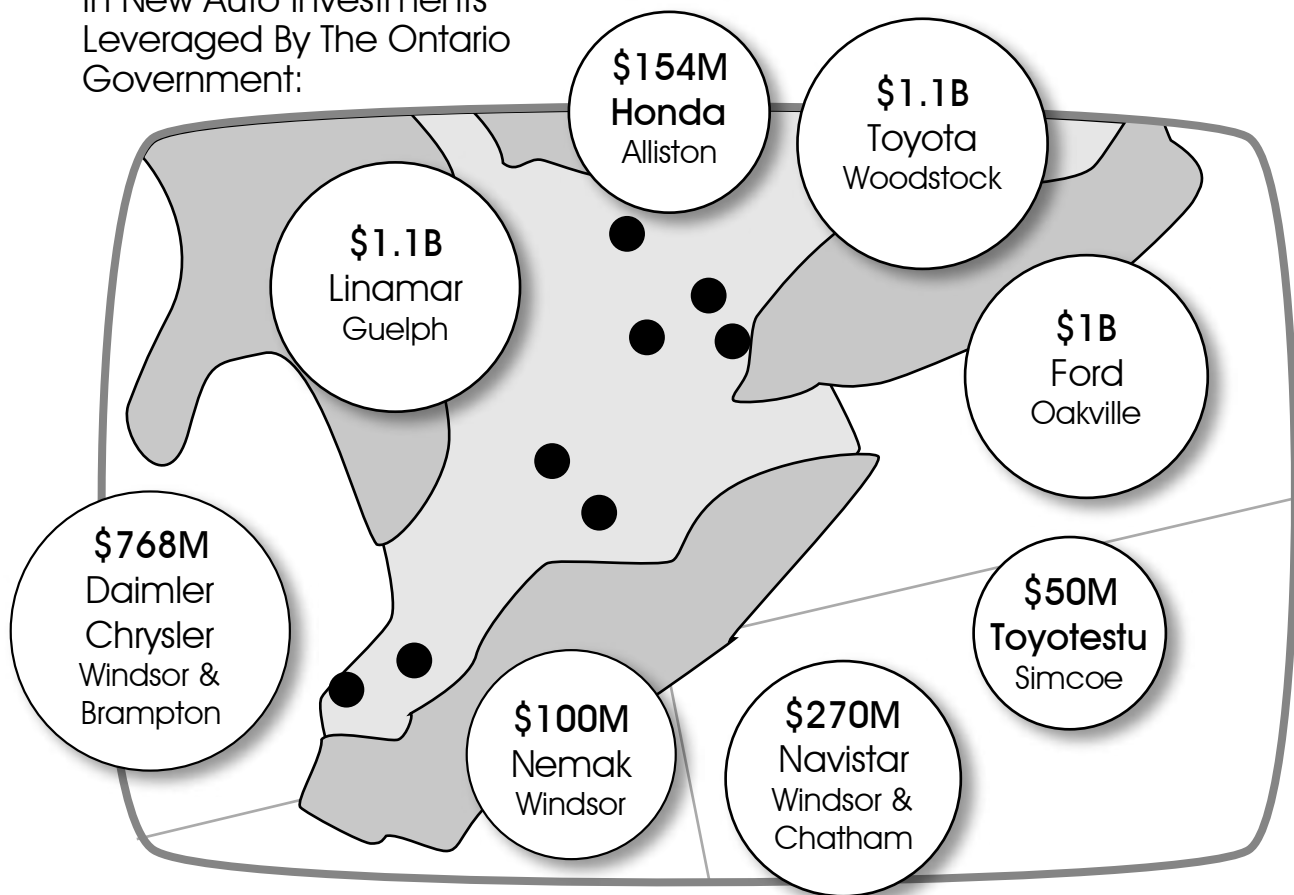
Ontario's auto strategy has leveraged almost \$7 billion in investment by supporting skills training, innovation, public infrastructure, new environmental technologies and energy efficiencies.

To help other Ontario manufacturers stay competitive, our new \$500-million Advanced Manufacturing Investment Strategy will provide repayable loans that are interest-free for up to five years. The strategy is expected to leverage another \$5 billion in new investments.

jobs and prosperity

- London: a \$10-million loan to Diamond Aircraft Industries to develop a single-engine, five-seat jet aircraft.
- Ajax: a loan of more than \$5 million to Messier-Dowty Inc. to help create a Landing Gear Systems Centre of Excellence.
- Brockville: a \$3-million loan to Procter & Gamble Inc. to develop a new generation of quick-cleaning homecare products.

Highlights Of Nearly \$7 Billion In New Auto Investments Leveraged By The Ontario Government:



We're promoting Ontario in the global marketplace:

- Ontario's foreign investment strategy attracted 7,260 jobs through 30 new investments valued at \$955 million.
- Ontario now has trade offices in seven key markets: New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Shanghai, New Delhi, Munich and London. And we're working to open three more in Mexico City, Beijing and Paris by the spring of 2007.
- The Premier led missions to China and Japan to promote Ontario's highly skilled workforce and encourage more investment in the province.

To strengthen the forestry sector and support jobs in the north, we've made \$900 million in assistance available over five years to help the industry stay competitive.

To help promote Ontario as a destination for resource development, we're investing \$10 million for the Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation at Laurentian University and \$15 million for geological mapping in the far north.

De Beers announced this year it will open Ontario's first-ever diamond mine in Attawapiskat in 2008.

☐ **Building opportunity for farmers and rural Ontarians**

To help Ontario farmers succeed and prosper, we've provided \$910 million in direct support to farmers in the past three years.

We're working hard to help build a stronger rural Ontario. Our five-year, \$3.3-billion plan to invest in rural infrastructure is providing funding for roads, bridges, airports, schools and hospitals, giving families and investors the tools they need to build opportunity.

☐ **Creating a culture of innovation**

Together with researchers, universities and entrepreneurs, we're expanding research, commercialization and outreach programs with \$1.7 billion in funding.

For example, the \$160-million Ideas-to-Market Strategy will help entrepreneurs and emerging companies turn research and ideas into new products and services.

☐ **Renewing public infrastructure**

Our five-year ReNew Ontario plan to invest \$30 billion in infrastructure is providing a solid foundation for economic growth.

We're making the tough decisions that will establish a 20-year plan for a sustainable, reliable, clean energy future.

By 2007, five per cent of our energy capacity will come from new renewable sources of electricity, including wind, solar and water, making Ontario a leader in clean energy. We're also doubling the province's renewable electricity capacity by 2025.

jobs and prosperity

We're also delivering \$1.4 billion in gas tax revenue over five years to support public transit.

We're protecting more than 1.8 million acres in the Golden Horseshoe from urban sprawl with our Greenbelt Plan.

To build or upgrade rural roads, bridges, water and sanitary systems, we're working with small urban and rural municipalities to support 346 community projects that have received federal-provincial-municipal funding.

To improve the flow of trade with our largest trading partner, we're moving forward with border infrastructure improvements in Windsor, Niagara, Sarnia and Sault Ste. Marie by investing \$800 million with the federal government and other partners.

To help get people and goods to where they need to be, we're investing \$1.2 billion in public transit, municipal roads and bridges through the Move Ontario program.

Our new five-year, \$3.4-billion Southern Ontario Highways Program will support key transportation and trade corridors in southern Ontario, adding 130 kilometres, replacing 64 bridges, repairing 1,600 kilometres of highway and 200 bridges.

The \$1.8-billion Northern Ontario Highways Strategy will expand the northern highway system by 64 kilometres, constructing 54 bridges, repairing 2,000 kilometres of highway and 200 bridges over five years.

Dr. Mansoor Mohammed earned his doctorate from the University of Guelph, but he earned his international reputation as a scientist in the United States. Dr. Mohammed came back home to become Chief Scientific Officer and eventually President of CombiMatrix Molecular Diagnostics at the company's office at MaRS - a world-class research centre in downtown Toronto. Dr. Mohammed said the opportunity to work in Ontario's top-notch research facilities with accomplished, world-renowned scientists is what brought him back to Ontario. Dr. Mohammed is now helping to develop and commercialize products and services that will help doctors make better decisions when it comes to treating cancer patients.

