

Education

In 2003, classrooms were crowded, schools were crumbling and teacher unrest was hurting our children and grandchildren. Our students lost too many teaching days to strikes and unrest, and that chaos drew too much attention away from their learning. Private school enrolment was on the rise as parents lost confidence in our publicly funded schools. When we formed a government, together we got to work. Since then, Ontario hasn't lost a school day to full-time teachers' strikes. We've lowered class sizes, raised test scores and the graduation rate, added postsecondary spaces, and created new programs to engage students all the way to graduation. And full-day kindergarten is helping our kids get the best possible start.

The single most important thing we can do to ensure we have a highly competitive workforce and to ensure our children enjoy rich, full, happy lives is to invest in their skills and education. That's why we're working to:

- Put full-day kindergarten in all of our schools by 2014.
- Increase the number of Grade 3 and 6 students meeting Ontario's standards in reading, writing and math to 75%.
- Increase grad rates to 85%.
- Increase the number of Ontarians with postsecondary education to 70%.

Working together we've built an education system that's a model for others around the world. We've come a long way, but there's still more to do.

Elementary and Secondary School

Ontario's economic success depends on a strong, publicly funded education system. That means investing in skills and education and helping students reach their full potential, starting as early as kindergarten. Since 2003, test scores are up, class sizes are down and graduation rates are on the rise.

Full-day Kindergarten

As of September 2010, about 35,000 four- and five-year-olds in nearly 600 schools benefited from full days of learning and play.

Full-day kindergarten is helping families by:

- Giving our youngest students their best start academically and socially.
- Saving families money on child care for the school year.
- Helping lift more children out of poverty.

- Helping busy parents balance work and family life.

An additional 200 schools will offer full-day kindergarten starting in September 2011, with more locations added each year. Our plan will put full-day kindergarten in every elementary school by 2014–2015.

Class sizes

Students in smaller classes get more individual attention from teachers and other educators, helping improve literacy and numeracy and are more likely to succeed. In 2010–11, class sizes are smaller:

- 90% of primary classes had 20 or fewer students compared to 31% in 2003–04.
- 100% of primary classes had 23 or fewer students compared to 64% in 2003–04.

Our new [full-day kindergarten](#) (FDK) program is not included in primary class size calculations. Classes under the new full-day kindergarten program differ from other primary classes by having two educators — one teacher and one early childhood educator — in the classroom. Where an FDK class has 15 students or fewer, only a teacher is required in the classroom.

Did you know?

– *The 2009 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) lists Ontario's students in the top 10 in the world for reading.*

Did you know?

– *We are funding 12,350 more teaching positions than when we started in 2003.*

Test scores

2009–10 [Education Quality and Accountability Office](#) (EQAO) assessment results:

- Ontario students scored among the highest in the world on the 2009 Program for International Assessment (PISA) test, which is administered globally by the OECD.
- 68% of students in Grades 3 and 6 are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard (a “B” average) — up 14 percentage points from 54% in 2002–03.
- Over 50,000 more students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing and mathematics compared to 2002–2003.

Student Success

We're helping students in Grades 7 to 12 customize their education to their individual strengths, goals and interests. Programs include:

- **Specialist High Skills Major:** Allows students to focus on a future career through a bundle of classroom courses, workplace experiences and sector certifications. In 2010–11, approximately 28,000 Grade 11 and 12 students participated in 18 majors including aviation and aerospace, environment, justice and more. In 2011–12, 34,000 students in more than 600 high schools will participate.
- **E-Learning:** Provides students with online courses and allows teachers to share resources across the province.
- **Dual Credits:** Counts towards a student's high school diploma as well as a college certificate, diploma or apprenticeship certification. In 2010–11, 12,800 students participated.
- **Cooperative Education:** Allows students to count hands-on learning towards two compulsory high school credits.

We're also helping struggling high school students get back on track to graduate:

- Every school board has a Student Success Leader working directly with principals to improve graduation rates.
- Student Success Teams provide extra support and attention in every high school for students who need it.
- On average, there is one Student Success Teacher in every high school.
- During the 2010–11 school year, 85 high schools participated in the School Support Initiative to help build staff leadership and improve student achievement.

Did you know?

– Online homework help is available for free for any student who wants it at www.ontario.ca/homeworkhelp

Grad Rates

Working with students, parents and educators, **Student Success/Learning to 18** has helped raise the high school graduation rate from 68% in 2003–04 to 81% in 2009–10.

That means about 72,000 more students have graduated than would have if the rate remained at the 2003–04 level.

College, University and Apprenticeship

Every qualified Ontario student who wants to go to college or university will find a place.

Already in Ontario, 64% of adults have completed postsecondary education. That's a higher rate than any OECD country. It's 20 percentage points higher than the U.S. and twice as high as the U.K. Those places are working hard to catch up so we're reaching even higher. Our new target is 70%, because experts tell us that seven out of 10 new jobs will require postsecondary education or training.

Did you know?

– Universities increased their degree completion rates from 73% in 2002–03 to 79% in 2009–10. Colleges increased their rates from 57% to 64%.

Apprenticeships

Skilled workers are in high demand in many industries. Becoming an apprentice can be an important first step to learning new skills and building a rewarding career.

About 120,000 apprentices are learning a trade today — nearly 60,000 more than in 2002–03.

Annual apprenticeship registrations have grown from 17,100 in 2002–03 to more than 29,000 in 2010–11. We'll continue to increase the number of new registrations while providing support to help apprentices complete their training.

We also established the [Ontario College of Trades](#) to modernize Ontario's apprenticeship and skilled trades system.

More Spaces

In 2010–11, about 200,000 more students, including 60,000 more apprentices, are learning than in 2002–03.

By 2011–12, 15,000 new graduate spaces will be created since 2002–03.

College and university enrolment growth in the past decade was over five times the level of growth in the 1990s.

260 new first-year medical student spaces will be created by 2011–12, a 38% increase since 2003. We opened Canada's first new medical school in 30 years, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and this year 60% of its graduates chose to enter Family Medicine programs.

Did you know?

– In 2011, we committed \$73.7 million over five years to make it easier to [transfer credits](#) between postsecondary institutions

Modernizing Facilities

Our students deserve the best facilities possible to help them learn. We are expanding, renewing and modernizing facilities at our colleges and universities, boosting our long-term research and skills-training capacity.

Investments include:

- 100 additional medical school spaces
- 12 skills training facilities at colleges
- 22 major capital projects at universities
- Facility renewal at colleges and universities across Ontario
- 49 projects in partnership with the federal government through the [Knowledge Infrastructure Program](#)

Student Aid

Ontario has one of the most generous student assistance programs in the country. About 210,000 students in 2010–11 are benefiting from improvements to financial assistance introduced since 2004–05.

In 2010–11, we also expanded and modernized the [Ontario Student Assistance Program](#) (OSAP).

Changes to student aid include:

- Increasing student loan limits to \$360 per week for single students and doubling the income exemption, so students keep up to \$103 per week in earning from part-time jobs.
- The number of grants available to students has more than tripled — over 143,000, or one in four students, receive non-repayable grants.
- Grants make up 61 cents of every provincial dollar provided to students — up from 44 cents in 2003–04.

- For loans issued in 2010–11, the [Ontario Student Opportunity Grant](#) will limit annual repayable debt to \$7,300 for a two-term academic year.
- Students can now apply three months earlier for OSAP.

The number of Ontario college and university students qualifying for OSAP increased by 56% from 2003–04, while college and university enrolment increased by 19%.

The Ontario Student Loan default rate decreased to 8% in 2009 — the lowest rate since the province began recording it in 1997 when it was 23.5%.

We expanded [Access Grants](#) by doubling the family income eligibility level to \$80,000 to help about 58,000 students with their tuition in 2009–10.

We capped tuition increases — after we froze tuition for two years — at an average of 5% annually.

In 2009–10, we helped provide about 2,000 [first generation students](#) with bursaries to overcome financial barriers.

Starting in 2008, eligible students who went away to school received a [\\$300 annual grant](#) to help them return home for visits with family. To be eligible for these grants, a student must live in a rural or Northern community more than 80 kilometres away from the closest college or university and must qualify for OSAP. Students who live at home and [commute regularly](#) back and forth received up to \$500 each term.

Did you know?

– *Dependent university students from middle-income families can receive up to \$12,300 in financial support in 2011–11, up from \$4,300 in 2003–04. Dependent university students from lower-income families can receive up to \$12,900 in 2010–11, up from \$9,400 in 2003–04.*

International Students

Our plan will increase international student enrolment by 50% over five years while guaranteeing spaces for qualified Ontario students. The contributions of international students will strengthen our schools and create more Ontario jobs.

Current efforts include:

- Premier's missions to key global markets like India and China.
- Supporting recruitment at events in targeted markets that include India, China, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Turkey.
- 5,300 outbound scholarships from 2006–07 to 2010–11, so our young Ontarians become global ambassadors and natural international recruiters.

- Announcing the new [Ontario Trillium Scholarship program](#) to attract top international PhD students to study in Ontario.
- Enhancing support of Ontario's student exchange programs with China, India, Germany and France.
- Recently announced extension of sponsorship for the [MITACS Globalink Scholarship program](#) through 2011
- Expanding the [Provincial Nominee Program](#) to include both master's and doctoral students from an Ontario university as of June 2010.
- Working with the federal government and other provinces to collaborate on issues such as facilitating student visas, Canada branding and coordination at key recruitment fairs.

Training

Together we're creating an Ontario even more open to new ideas, new people, new investment and new trade ties, not only to replace old jobs that have gone, but to create new jobs that are coming. Ontarians are matching their skills to opportunities, whether through retraining, renewed certifications or starting a new job. Our greatest economic advantage is our people.

Employment Ontario

[Employment Ontario](#) employment and training services reach more than one million clients annually.

In the last two years, additional funding was provided in response to rising demand for services caused by the global recession.

The 2011 Ontario Budget is providing additional funding for two important programs that support training opportunities and provide work experience to help Ontarians improve their knowledge and skills:

- Literacy and basic skills programs
- Summer Jobs Strategy, which will help more than 100,000 students access jobs and services this summer

Second Career

The [Second Career](#) program offers laid-off workers up to two years of training to help them find jobs in growing sectors of the economy.

Over 44,000 clients have enrolled in training funded through Second Career. About 74% of surveyed participants found employment within one year of completing their skills training.

Summer Jobs

We're helping over 100,000 students access jobs and services this summer. The Summer Jobs Strategy includes targeted resources for youth in high-needs neighbourhoods.

Employment Ontario's [Summer Jobs website](#) lets students:

- Find job listings
- Search for a job through [Employment Ontario](#) agencies
- Get help to improve their marketing skills and resume writing
- Learn how to start their own [summer company](#)
- Apply for a job with the [Ontario government](#)

Employers are also encouraged to hire students and provide hands-on training for tomorrow's workforce through a [\\$2-per-hour hiring incentive](#).

Ontario's summer jobs programs and services are open to students years who plan to return to school the following fall.

Internationally Trained Professionals

Since 2003, we have invested in programs and services across Ontario to help over 41,000 newcomers settle, get language training, and become job-ready or licensed in their field with more than 220 bridge training programs for over 100 professions and trades.

We passed the [Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act](#), 2006 and created the [Office of the Fairness Commissioner](#) to ensure a fair and transparent process for obtaining registration and licensing in 40 regulated professions.

Funding to support the retraining of international medical graduates is five times what it was in 2003 meaning an additional 1,065 international medical graduates were practising in Ontario as of 2009.

Did you know?

– Ontario offers more training positions and assessments for international medical graduates than all other provinces combined.

Economy and Families

The global recession was hard on economies around the world. We worked with Ontarians when others would have cut them loose. We braced against the storm and together we got back on track. Our jobs are coming back and growth is returning.

No matter what sector you're talking about, the challenges facing businesses are similar. And that's why our tax reforms are so important. We're doing the right things to make Ontario a much more attractive place for businesses to invest, and businesses have seen the benefits.

Tax Plan for Jobs and Growth

Our plan is creating a climate where businesses can thrive, create jobs and build innovative new products to sell to the world.

HST

On July 1, 2010, Ontario moved to a single [harmonized sales tax](#) (HST) to help make businesses more competitive and create jobs for Ontario families.

The HST eliminated hidden sales taxes for most businesses. Combined with our business tax cuts and other measures, Ontario is now one of the most tax competitive economies for business investment among industrialized countries.

The move to the HST also eliminated over 5,000 pages of outdated rules, regulations and operating procedures. That means businesses spend less time filling out paperwork and more time focusing on creating jobs.

Since the federal government now collects Ontario's sales tax, taxpayers will save about \$100 million a year by 2014–15. The HST is also saving businesses over \$500 million a year in administration costs.

In total, about 83% of products and services purchased by consumers saw no new tax.

To provide sales tax relief, we also introduced point-of-sale exemptions for the provincial portion of the harmonized sales tax for items that are especially important to families such as:

- Diapers and feminine hygiene products
- Children's clothing and footwear
- Children's car seats and car booster seats

- Books (including audio books)
- Qualifying prepared food and beverages sold for \$4 or less
- Print newspapers

A [study](#) by Professor Michael Smart estimates that during the first six months of the HST, about two-thirds of the sales tax savings to businesses were passed on to consumers through lower prices.

Did you know?

– *More than 150 countries and five other Canadian provinces have a value-added tax like the HST.*

Income taxes

As of January 1, 2010, 93% of Ontario income taxpayers pay less income tax because of a personal income tax cut included in our tax reform package.

The general corporate income tax rate went down from 14% to 12% on July 1, 2010, and will go down to 11.5% on July 1, 2011. By 2013, the general corporate income tax rate will fall to 10%.

The [Ontario Corporate Income Tax and Capital Tax cuts](#), together with the [Harmonized Sales Tax](#), will help cut the marginal effective tax rate on new investment in half. That will encourage businesses to invest and create jobs in Ontario.

We eliminated capital tax for all corporations in Ontario on July 1, 2010.

Did you know?

– *Ontario families are saving an average of \$355 on their income taxes.*

Tax Credits for Families

[Ontario Sales Tax Credit](#)

- To help low to moderate income Ontario families and single people with the sales tax they pay, providing up to \$260 for each eligible adult and child in low-to-middle income Ontario families and single people

[Ontario Sales Tax Transition Benefit](#)

- Three payments of up to \$300 for single people and \$1,000 for families and single parents
- Payments sent in June 2010, December 2010 and June 2011

[Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit](#)

- For low to moderate income property owners or renters with their principal residence in Ontario
- Paid up to \$900 for 2010 to help with property taxes and the sales tax on energy
- Qualifying seniors received up to \$1,025 for 2010

Children's Activity Tax Credit

- Offsets the cost of activities to encourage good health and active minds (e.g., sports or music lessons)
- Benefits over 1.8 million children to a maximum of \$50 each (or \$100 for a child with a disability)

Northern Ontario Energy Credit

- For low to middle income property owners or renters with their principal residence in Northern Ontario to help with the higher energy costs of living in the North
- Paid families up to \$200 to help with 2010 energy costs; single people received up to \$130

Did you know?

– Starting in September 2011, students from Grades 4 to 12 will learn financial literacy at school to help them make informed choices and effective decisions about the use and management of money.

Home and landowners

Newly constructed homes across all price ranges that are purchased as primary residences qualify for a rebate of up to \$24,000. This rebate ensures that, on average, new homes priced up to \$400,000 are not subject to additional tax compared to RST that was embedded in the prices of new homes.

First-time home buyers can get up to \$2,000 back as a rebate on their land transfer tax.

Entertainment and Creative Industries

Ontario's entertainment and creative industries include firms engaged in award-winning film and video production, music, commercial theatre, book and magazine publishing, and interactive digital media. These industries are well positioned to capitalize on global growth in new products and services and create knowledge-based jobs.

Support for Screen-based and Other Creative Industries

We are providing targeted funding and tax incentives to support creative content development and help create jobs in exciting new industries.

In 2010, Ontario provided [tax credits](#) to support Ontario's entertainment and creative cluster, including the film and television industry.

In 2009, we enhanced many of these media tax credits, including the [Ontario Production Services Tax Credit](#), which was expanded from a tax credit on labour costs to all eligible production costs.

Did you know?

– Since 2003, employment in Ontario's entertainment and creative industries has grown faster than employment in the broader economy. The sector employed approximately 304,000 Ontarians in 2010, an increase of 15%, or 39,000 well-paying jobs, compared to 2003.

Arts and Culture

Since 2003, Ontario supported arts organizations, agencies and libraries, including:

- [Royal Ontario Museum](#)
- [Art Gallery of Ontario](#)
- [Toronto Reference Library](#)
- [Toronto's Luminato Festival](#)
- [Canadian Film Centre](#)

We established the [Arts Investment Fund](#) in 2010, which will provide \$27 million over three years to non-profit arts groups through the [Ontario Arts Council](#).

We announced a new \$50 million Community Capital Fund to provide funding for infrastructure projects to registered charities and incorporated not-for-profit organizations that serve diverse cultural communities.

In 2010, we announced a three-year investment in the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund to help not-for-profit cultural and heritage organizations promote and present unique events that attract new audiences.

Since 2003, we've invested more than \$186 million to support festivals and events in Ontario. This includes almost \$57 million through [Celebrate Ontario](#).

The 2011 budget announced \$6.5 million in additional, ongoing funding for Celebrate Ontario, beginning in 2011, to support Ontario's festivals and events, bringing annual support to \$20 million — \$8 million more than in 2010.

Tourism

To support Ontario as a top destination, Ontario has helped the tourism industry divide the province into 13 new tourism regions with [Regional Tourism Organizations](#) to make the industry stronger and more competitive.

Over the past year, more than 60 tourism projects have been identified or completed in the new tourism regions.

In 2011, the re-developed [Ottawa Convention Centre](#) opened with funding from Ontario.

- The new Ottawa Convention Centre has over 90 conventions booked that will generate over \$240 million in economic benefits over the next five years.
- To date, almost 3,400 jobs have been created.

In 2011, the [Scotiabank Convention Centre](#) in Niagara Falls also opened with funding from Ontario.

- The new Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls has pre-booked 40 conventions and conferences, which represents a total of 32,000 hotel room nights.

Doing Business in Ontario

We're working to make Ontario the place to be when it comes to building your business. Tax credits, incentives and a workforce second to none are attracting investment and creating jobs in new and emerging sectors.

Support for Investment and Jobs

We have provided significant support to encourage business investment in Ontario. Although the private sector slowed down its spending because of the recession, direct government support has helped leverage new capital investment and job creation in growing sectors. As of May 2011:

- We have announced support for 36 projects through the Next Generation of Jobs Fund. This investment of \$754 million leveraged more than \$4.2 billion in industry investment and secured 9,184 high-skilled jobs.

- We have made loan commitments of more than \$189 million to support innovative projects in 27 communities through the Advanced Manufacturing Investment Strategy since its launch. This investment leveraged \$1.2 billion in new investments and secured more than 5,600 jobs.
- We have announced support of more than \$105.4 million (\$63 million in grants and \$42.4 million in loans) through the [Strategic Jobs and Investment Fund](#) since its launch on June 4, 2010. This investment leveraged total industry investment of more than \$1.5 billion and secured more than 2,600 highly skilled jobs.
- In 2010, we provided over \$465 million in tax incentives to Ontario businesses undertaking research and development. This tax support helps them develop breakthrough technologies, products and services the world wants to buy.
- During the worst recession in a generation, we invested \$4.8 billion to support Ontario's auto industry — and we have benefited from this move. The investment preserved the approximately 85,000 direct jobs in the province's auto sector and the 400,000 jobs indirectly supported by the industry. Since the sector's restructuring in June 2009, Ontario's auto industry has increased by over 8,000 jobs.

Small and Medium Businesses

In 2010–11, our network of [Small Business Enterprise Centres](#) (SBEC) assisted in the creation of 11,500 new businesses and 1,800 business expansions, resulting in 14,200 new jobs.

Ontario's network of 57 SBECs partner with municipalities to provide entrepreneurs with the tools they need to start and grow their businesses — tools like free consultations with a qualified business consultant, Internet and computer access for business research and planning, and a review of business plans. SBECs have done over 28,000 one-on-one consultations in 2010–11.

Our [Business Advisory Services](#) are focused on helping innovative small- and medium-sized businesses grow here and abroad. We have 12 regional offices across southern Ontario that have completed over 1,600 consultations.

The [Ontario Business Program Guide](#) is a one-stop directory for more than 60 support programs and services for business.

[ServiceOntario](#), in collaboration with Industry Canada, launched a new [Business Info Line](#) (1-888-745-8888) so you can easily find information you need. The toll-free line connects callers to 12 high-demand federal and provincial government programs.

Agents can also connect callers to an additional 70 programs from all levels of government, covering more than 160 telephone numbers and hundreds of services.

Tax Support for Training

We're cutting business education taxes by \$540 million over seven years.

We are accelerating the [Business Education Tax](#) (BET) reductions in Northern Ontario so that Northern businesses benefit from the full BET reduction four years earlier than planned.

In 2009, the Government of Ontario made enhancements to the [Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit](#) (ATTC) to support employers who take on qualifying apprentices in the skilled trades. The enhancements included:

- Increasing the 25% ATTC rate to 35%.
- Increasing the 30% ATTC rate for small business to 45%.
- Increasing the \$5,000 annual maximum tax credit to \$10,000.
- Extending the ATTC from salaries and wages paid during the first 36 months to the first 48 months of an apprenticeship program.
- Making the ATTC a permanent tax incentive.

In 2009, the [Co-operative Education Tax Credit](#) (CETC), a tax credit available to businesses on the salaries and wages of postsecondary co-op students was increased from 10% to 25%. For small businesses, we increased the CETC from 15% to 30%. The maximum tax credit per co-op student work placement was also increased from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

In 2010, the ATTC and the CETC provided an estimated \$145 million in tax support to businesses for training and education.

Foreign Investment

In 2010, and for the second year in a row, the Financial Times of London ranked Ontario second only to California in North America as a recipient of foreign direct investment.

Ontario is first in North America when it comes to converting foreign investment into jobs with 11,210 new jobs from foreign direct investment projects.

In 2007–08, we attracted 42 international investment deals, which helped create or retain 6,898 jobs. Business missions to China, India and Pakistan supported the

strategy. The missions generated more than 70 agreements to develop new trade, investment and educational opportunities for Ontario.

In 2008–09, we attracted 32 international investment deals, which helped create or retain 3,768 jobs.

In 2009–10, we attracted 42 international investment deals worth \$1.3 billion, which helped create or retain 4,000 jobs supported by business missions to India, Israel and the West Bank.

Did you know?

– *The Financial Times of London named Toronto one of the two most attractive business cities in North America, along with New York.*

Mission to India 2009

A delegation of senior representatives from 27 clean technology organizations participated in the Premier's Mission to India in December 2009.

More than 850 Indian business executives met our delegates in New Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad, and over 350 one-on-one business meetings were organized.

As a result, Ontario delegates and their Indian counterparts signed agreements worth more than \$650 million.

Mission to the Middle East 2010

The Premier and Minister of Economic Development and Trade led 41 business delegates from 35 life sciences companies and institutions to Israel and met with political and business leaders to explore opportunities to build upon existing collaborative relationships. The mission included a plenary session, business-to-business matchmaking, business roundtables and site visits.

The Premier visited the West Bank and promoted the strengthening of collaboration between West Bank and Ontario institutions. The mission concluded with a stop in Lebanon to strengthen our bilateral commercial relationship.

More than 120 one-on-one meetings were organized for the delegates. The mission events attracted more than 250 Israeli business leaders.

Multiple agreements between Ontario organizations and Israeli partners were signed worth millions in potential business and research collaborations. One example is the \$56-million expansion of [Teva Canada's Stouffville production plant](#), assisted by a \$6.5-million grant from the Ontario government, that will create 20 new jobs in addition to the retention of 182 highly skilled workers.

Electricity

For decades, Ontario's energy infrastructure has been neglected. Together, we're turning this challenge into an opportunity for growth. By taking advantage of clean technology, we can create jobs and become a leader in this emerging industry. By replacing dirty coal-fired generation with cleaner sources of power like wind, solar, and biomass, Ontario is cleaning up the air we breathe and saving money in health care and environmental costs.

Our long-term energy plan will rebuild 80% of our system over the next 20 years. We're doing what needs to be done to ensure we have the electricity we need to power our homes, schools, hospitals and our economy.

Clean Energy

Ontario is leading the way when it comes to producing reliable energy from clean, renewable sources. We're creating good jobs in exciting new industries and ensuring a bright, clean future for our children and grandchildren while powering Ontario's growing economy today.

Green Energy Act

We have brought more than 8,900 megawatts — enough to power nearly 4 million homes or a city the size of Ottawa — of new electricity supply online. That includes more than 2,000 megawatts from sustainable, renewable sources.

The [Green Energy Act](#) is establishing Ontario as a global leader in clean energy. We're encouraging energy conservation and creating jobs by:

- Supporting and expanding economic investment to build a stronger, cleaner economy creating 50,000 jobs by the end of 2012 — 13,000 have been created so far.
- Expanding Ontario's use of clean and renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar, biomass and biogas.
- Better protecting our environment, combating climate change and creating a healthier future for generations to come.

At the heart of the Green Energy Act is North America's most [comprehensive feed-in tariff](#) (FIT), which is sparking the development of renewable energy projects. It's attracting the interest of the world's investors and entrepreneurs.

We have signed or offered more than 21,000 contracts for small, medium and large clean energy projects and about \$13 billion in private sector investment, as well as investment in manufacturing.

Did you know?

– Ontario is taking 10% off your electricity bills for the next five years with the [Ontario Clean Energy Benefit](#) saving the average family about \$150/year.

Did you know?

– Ontario has saved over 1,700 megawatts of electricity since 2005; that's the amount of electricity needed to power more than half a million homes.

Solar

We're increasing energy from solar power. The three largest solar farms in Canada are in Ontario:

1. Enbridge's Sarnia Solar Project
2. EDF EN's Arnprior Solar Project
3. SkyPower and SunEdison's First Light 1, Stone Mills

Ontario has more than 200 MW of solar capacity online, producing enough electricity each year to power more than 30,000 homes.

Did you know?

– Enbridge's Sarnia Solar Project is the largest solar PV farm in the world.

Wind

Ontario is Canada's leader in [wind power](#), going from 10 turbines in 2003 to over 900 spinning today. Our turbines have the capacity to produce enough energy for the average electricity needs of more than 350,000 homes.

Canada's four largest wind farms are located in Ontario:

1. Melancthon I and II (Shelburne) – (133 turbines)
2. Wolfe Island (Wolfe Island) – (86 turbines)
3. Prince (Sault Ste. Marie) – (126 turbines)
4. Enbridge Ontario A and B (Kincardine) – (110 turbines)

We're working with colleges to train future wind turbine technicians. [St. Lawrence College](#) provides spaces for about 80 apprentices in several trades, including 17 wind turbine technician students in 2009–10. St. Clair College is approved to offer a two-year Sustainable Energy Technician program starting September 2011.

Did you know?

– Since we passed the Green Energy Act, Ontario has created more than 13,000 clean energy jobs.

Shutting Down Coal

We owe it to ourselves and our children to clean up our air. Coal has been shown to lead to smog, asthma as well as other respiratory problems. That's why there will no longer be coal-fired power generation in Ontario by 2014.

2014

We are on track to be one of the first places in the world and the first in North America to shut down coal-fired power generation and replace it with clean, renewable power.

Ontario Power Generation has closed two of eight units at its Nanticoke station near Simcoe and two of four units at its Lambton plant near Sarnia as of October 2010.

Coal usage for early 2011 was 90% lower than coal usage in early 2003.

Did you know?

– Shutting down coal will save our health care system \$3 billion every year.

Did you know?

– Eliminating emissions from coal-fired power plants is like taking up to 7 million cars off the roads.

Northern Energy

Residents and businesses in Northern Ontario tend to pay more for their energy due to longer, more severe winters and lower customer density. That's why we introduced credits to help offset those costs.

Northern Ontario Energy Credit

The new [Northern Ontario Energy Credit](#) helps low to moderate income single individuals get up to \$130 back a year and families get up to \$200 back a year. More than half of Northerners are eligible for this credit.

Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program

The [Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program](#) helps large industrial energy users such as pulp and paper mills increase energy efficiency and reduce their electricity costs by an average of about 25%.

Infrastructure

Strong modern infrastructure boosts Ontario's productivity; it creates jobs now, and it's there for our communities and businesses years down the road.

We don't believe you can cut your way to strength. You build. Our plan is working: we created and supported 600,000 jobs since 2003 and we have new roads, bridges, community centres, water infrastructure and schools to show for it.

Already, shovels are in the ground and plans in the works for even more projects that are going to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Ontarians — whether they provide a job today, or an even better quality of life and increased productivity down the road.

To track the progress of infrastructure stimulus projects in your community and across Ontario, visit www.ontario.ca/infrastructure.

Transit

Ontarians need to get where they're going safely and efficiently. Investing in public transit creates jobs in the short term and more choices for commuters in the long term. Leaving the car at home is good for the air we breathe and reduces congestion on our roads and highways.

Working together, we're making the largest investment in public transit systems in Canadian history, reducing gridlock and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. [Metrolinx's Big Move](#) is a 25-year vision for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area to get commuters where they need to go. It's a plan that's already underway.

Key transit projects:

GO Transit

- We are opening four new GO stations by the end of 2011:
 - Acton station, a new station as part of the new Kitchener-Waterloo extension of the Georgetown line.
 - Guelph station, a renovation of the existing Via station as part of the new Kitchener-Waterloo extension of the Georgetown line.
 - Kitchener station, a renovation of the existing Via station as part of the new Kitchener-Waterloo extension of the Georgetown line.
 - A new station at the former Allandale station site on Barrie's waterfront.
- GO Transit has introduced 12-car trains carrying an additional 300 passengers per trip on the Lakeshore and Milton lines.
- New grade separations and tracks are helping to reduce delays and allow more service on GO Transit. Examples include the extension of all-day weekday service to Aldershot Station on the Lakeshore West line and additional morning rush-hour service on the Lakeshore East line.

Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension

- Work is underway on the 8.6-km extension from Downsview to the Vaughan Corporate Centre in York Region. This will extend subway service for the first time beyond regional boundaries — from the 416 to the 905 region — making public transit more convenient for everyone in the GTA.

Eglinton-Scarborough Crosstown LRT

- The Province and Metrolinx are responsible for delivering a transit project along Eglinton Avenue and the Scarborough RT line (the Eglinton-Scarborough Crosstown Light Rail Transit) including:
 - A 25-km east-west LRT corridor between Scarborough Centre and Black Creek.
 - Faster travel times (35 minutes from Kennedy to Black Creek).
 - Through service from Scarborough Centre to Black Creek (45 minutes).

Air Rail Link (ARL)

- [Metrolinx](#) will deliver the ARL, an express rail link that will connect Pearson International Airport to Union Station.
- The ARL will be in service for the 2015 Pan Am Games.
- It also involves the purchase of Tier 4 clean diesel vehicles, which will be convertible to electric propulsion.

York VIVA Bus Rapid Transit

- Work continues on the new York VIVA Bus Rapid Transit.
- When complete, a network of dedicated lanes and stations along the Yonge Street and Highway 7 corridors will allow commuters throughout York Region to avoid congestion and enjoy faster, more consistent travel times.

Kitchener Waterloo Regional Transit

- We are making the single largest transit infrastructure investment in the Waterloo Region's history for a rapid transit corridor.
- Transit plans for the KW Region are now underway and stage 1 projects will include 36 km of rapid transit between Conestoga Mall in Waterloo, Fairview Park Mall in Kitchener and the Ainslie Street Terminal.

Ottawa Rapid Transit

- We're supporting rapid transit in the City of Ottawa with the largest single investment in the city's history towards rapid transit infrastructure.
- The plan includes a 12.5 km East-West LRT line from Blair Station to Tunney's Pasture, which includes a 3.2 km tunnel under the downtown core, and a maintenance and storage facility.

Work on Union Station revitalization is scheduled for completion in 2015 and will improve pedestrian flow and restore heritage aspects of the building.

We provide two cents per litre of [provincial gas tax](#) revenues to municipalities as a source of long-term sustainable funding for public transit. As a result, funding is being distributed to 93 transit systems in 120 communities across Ontario in 2010–11.

Did you know?

– Compared to 2003, 2009 municipal transit ridership has increased by nearly 110 million passenger trips on public transit. That translates into more than 91 million car trips not taken on our roads.

Roads and Bridges

Our roads and bridges carry Ontario goods and ideas to market. They're there for families on their way home and visitors touring our province. Keeping them in good shape also provides jobs. That's why we continue to invest in the maintenance and improvement of our roads and bridges.

Thanks to our historic levels of investment since 2003, we've:

- Built or re-built 5,500 km of road — that's like building a road from here to Alaska
- Built or re-built 739 bridges

Northern Highways

We've budgeted a record \$774 million in 2010–11 to invest in [Northern highways](#), — almost 20% more than last year.

One key focus of the [Northern Highways Program](#) is to expand the Hwy 11/17 corridor between Thunder Bay and Nipigon.

Construction on two projects along this corridor began in 2010–11, with three additional projects approved to start over the next two years.

Northern Highways Program highlights include:

- Grading and paving Hwy 11 over 17 km from South River to Sundridge. All remaining 32 km of the corridor are under construction.
- Second phase of reconstruction and improvements (turning lanes, lighting) on Hwy 11/17 in Thunder Bay (Thunder Bay Expressway).
- Widening Hwy 69 from two to four lanes continued from Estaire to south of the Highway 637 intersection.
- Opening the 17-km four-lane section of Hwy 69 from Nobel to Hwy 559
- Noden Causeway bridge upgrades east of Fort Frances.

We're also providing funding to support Huron Central Railway's investments on the Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury rail line.

Southern Highways

We're expanding and repairing our southern highways as well.

Projects underway in 2010–11 include:

- Six-laning Highway 401 through Kingston
- Four-laning Highway 17 from County Rd 29 to Division St., Arnprior
- Four-laning Highway 7 to Carleton Place
- New interchange and widening on the 401 from 403/410 to Hurontario Street, Mississauga
- Six-laning the QEW through St. Catharines
- Two- to five-laning Highway 3, Leamington to Windsor

- Six- and eight-laning Highway 8, from the Grand River to Hwy 401 in Kitchener

We're also extending Highway 407 East to Harmony Road in Oshawa by 2015 and then to Highway 35/115 by 2020.

We're reforming truck design and weight allowances to make them safer, more productive and environmentally friendly, causing less wear on roads and bridges by:

- Allowing wider use of low rolling-resistant wide single truck tires in place of traditional dual tires.
- Allowing aerodynamic devices on heavy trucks to reduce wind resistance.
- **Requiring speed limiters** on trucks, capping speed at 105 km/h.

We opened the first **high occupancy vehicle lanes** (HOV) in the Ottawa area on Highway 417 eastbound. This will encourage carpooling and transit use. We also added HOV lanes on the QEW, opening 16 km in November 2010 in Halton Region.

HOV lanes have been in use on Highways 403 and 404 in the GTA since 2007.

Did you know?

– You can track Ontario's largest infrastructure projects at www.infrastructureontario.ca.

Service Centres

We're upgrading 20 **highway service centres**. The first 10 redeveloped sites are now fully operational with another three expected to open by the end of this year. The new highway service centres are constructed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (**LEED**) silver certification standards. These eco- and family-friendly facilities, offer quick-service dining, coffee, convenience retail, enhanced truck facilities, tourism information and fully accessible washrooms. Some of their features include:

- Water-efficient landscaping with drought-resistant planting — no irrigation required.
- Waterless urinals, reducing water use by 40%.
- Washrooms featuring increased capacity and touchless fixtures to save water.
- Chlorofluorocarbon-free heating and cooling equipment.
- Energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
- Use of regional materials containing a minimum of 15% recycled material.

Communities and Recreation

We continue to invest in our municipalities in order to give them a stronger economic future and create an even higher quality of life for families. By 2018, Ontario will have increased ongoing annual support to municipalities to almost \$4 billion every year — an increase of 250% since 2003.

Communities and Recreation Centres

We're making record investments in local, municipal infrastructure. New and improved facilities across Ontario include:

- A new health centre in Huron East.
- A new recreation facility in Quinte West.
- Water and storm water upgrades in Barrie.
- A new aerial fire truck, bridge repairs and arena upgrades in Kawartha Lakes.
- A bridge replacement in Loyalist Township.

[Eastern Ontario Development Fund](#) (EODF) projects help diversify the eastern Ontario economy and attract investment. They've led to almost 1,700 new jobs and supported over 8,000 existing positions.

Recent EODF announcements include partnerships with:

- Strathmere Farm Inc., North Gower
- Corporation of the Municipality of Trent Hills
- Dynacast Ltd., Peterborough
- A. Potvin Construction Ltd, Rockland
- Fraser Scates Ltd., (Central Smith Creamery), Peterborough
- George A. Wright & Son Limited, Kingston

There are also 400 recreation centre projects complete or underway across Ontario to help strengthen our communities and encourage families to stay active. Communities with complete or nearly complete facilities include:

- Amherstburg: new sports complex
- Point Edward: Point Edward Arena
- Chatham-Kent: YMCA facility renewal

Broadband Internet

The [Eastern Ontario Regional Network Broadband project](#) will bring basic broadband access to 95% of the population in eastern Ontario and ultra high-speed access to 85% of the population.

We're also funding the [Building Broadband in Rural and Northern Ontario Program](#) to continue bringing high-speed Internet access to rural and remote areas of the province. This includes a fibre network that will bring high-speed connections to 26 remote Northern First Nations communities.

Since 2007, we have committed to 55 projects to upgrade or build [new broadband infrastructure](#) in rural southern Ontario.

Schools and Hospitals

Since 2003, we've built or begun construction on 18 new hospitals and built 400 new schools in order to provide the services families rely on in facilities they can be proud of.

Schools

We launched [Good Places to Learn](#) in 2005 to address renewal and the need for new schools across the province.

More than 23,000 [renewal projects](#) have been completed or are underway at our schools. Since 2003, 400 new schools across Ontario have been built.

Over the past two years, we've also provided funding to make more than 2,300 publicly funded schools more energy efficient and support investments in renewable energy at schools.

Hospitals

Since 2003, 18 new hospitals have been built or are now underway.

Complete:

- Brampton: William Osler Health Centre
- Ottawa: Royal Ottawa Health Care Group
- Parry Sound: West Parry Sound Health Centre
- Peterborough: Peterborough Regional Health Centre
- Sudbury: L'Hopital Regional de Sudbury Regional Hospital
- Thunder Bay: Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
- Mattawa: General Hospital
- Toronto: Runnymede Healthcare Centre
- Toronto: Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
- Pembroke: Pembroke Regional Hospital
- North Bay: North Bay Regional Health Centre
- Sault Ste. Marie: Sault Area Hospital
- Sioux Lookout: Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre

Under Construction:

- St. Catharines: Niagara Health System
- Sarnia: Bluewater Health
- Woodstock: Woodstock General Hospital
- Toronto: Bridgepoint Hospital
- Cornwall: Cornwall Community Hospital

Planning and Design Stage

- Oakville: Halton Healthcare Services
- Toronto: Humber River Regional Hospital

There are another 27 projects underway to renew or expand existing facilities.

Community

Ontario is the greatest province in the best country in the world. We believe in our province and our people. And if there is one ideal that has inspired every generation of Ontarians, it is this: we will do whatever it takes to secure a bright future for our children and grandchildren. A future where everyone has an opportunity to succeed, clean air to breathe, good food to eat and a safe place to call home. That's our plan and it's already underway.

Poverty Reduction

Ontario's groundbreaking [Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) is helping Ontarians reach their full potential. Our goal is to break the cycle and reduce the number of children living in poverty by 25% in five years.

Ontario Child Benefit

The [Ontario Child Benefit](#) (OCB) is the cornerstone of the [Poverty Reduction Strategy](#). It provides up to \$1,100 annually per child to low-income families and benefits over one million children.

The OCB is a monthly benefit paid to low-income families with children under age 18. It has transformed the children's benefit system by providing support to all low-income families with children, not just those on social assistance. The OCB treats all children in these families equally and has taken down a significant barrier to employment, making it

easier for parents to transition from social assistance to employment by letting parents keep their children's benefits when they move to employment.

The poverty rate for children in Ontario declined from 15.2% in 2008 to 14.6% in 2009, in part because of the strategy. In 2009, 19,000 fewer Ontario children were living in poverty.

The Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent is helping children and youth in the care of children's aid societies by supporting their participation in learning and recreational programs and by providing savings they can use when they reach age 18.

Did you know?

– We raised the [general minimum wage](#) seven times for a total increase from \$6.85/hour in 2004 to \$10.25/hour in 2011. That is an increase of almost 50% since 2003.

Adoption

Thousands more Ontario children and youth will soon be eligible for adoption and support.

The Building Families and Supporting Youth to Be Successful Act, 2011 removes barriers so that more kids in the care of children's aid societies (CASs) can be adopted.

To help with the transition to adulthood, the act also allows older youth whose care was terminated at ages 16 or 17 to return to their CASs and receive financial and other support until the age of 21.

Dental Care

In 2010, the [Children in Need of Treatment](#) program provided care to 43,484 children and youth with serious oral health problems that might otherwise have gone untreated.

Children in Need of Treatment includes children 17 years of age and under and provides access to urgent or emergency dental care for children and youth who cannot afford treatment.

[Healthy Smiles Ontario](#), introduced in 2010, provides a range of preventive and early treatment dental services to children and youth from low-income families who have no access to dental coverage. Services include checkups, cleaning, fillings and X-rays for 130,000 children 17 years of age and under.

Affordable Housing

We're helping create new [affordable housing](#) and repair existing social housing, including dedicating funding to help seniors and persons with disabilities.

- Our investment means we are building and repairing more than 270,000 units.
- Our [Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy](#) is the first of its kind in Ontario and sets a strong foundation for a more efficient, accessible system for those who need it.
- Bill 140 — the Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act, 2011 received all-party support.
- In partnership with two Aboriginal corporations, we're investing in capital funding for Aboriginal designed, delivered and administered off-reserve housing programs in Ontario. The programs include new rental construction, repair, acquisition and rehabilitation, and will help about 880 families.
- Since 2004, more than 28,200 Ontario families have avoided eviction as a result of the government ensuring stable funding for [municipal rent banks](#) across Ontario.

Youth Opportunities

Through the [Youth Opportunities Strategy](#), with some support from the federal government, more than 5,000 youth from 32 priority communities across the province had the chance to gain valuable work experience that will help them reach their full potential and contribute to the well-being of their communities.

We increased funding to the [Community Use of Schools program](#) to provide facilities and space for not-for-profit groups outside school hours at reduced rates or free of charge in communities that need it most.

We're rolling out [Ontario's After-School Initiative](#), which provides children and youth in some of Ontario's high-needs neighbourhoods with an opportunity to improve their personal health and wellness in supervised, safe, uplifting environments.

We increased our support for the Student Nutrition Program, helping to serve an estimated 600,000 elementary and secondary students nutritious breakfasts and morning snacks in 2010–11.

To help Aboriginal children and youth in urban and off-reserve communities, we continue to support programs that help them build confidence and make healthy choices. These programs have included:

- [Akwe:go Urban Aboriginal Children's Program](#): for children 7–12, served 674 kids and 1,478 participants*
- [Wasa-Nabin Urban Aboriginal Youth Program](#): for youth 13–18, served 492 kids and 1,168 participants*

*Participants attended just one or two activities rather than the full program.

Recognizing the unique challenges facing Aboriginal children, youth and their communities, our government continues to work with Aboriginal organizations and First Nations communities to improve services for Aboriginal children and families in need.

John Beaucage was appointed our Aboriginal Advisor. He is helping to guide discussions with Aboriginal leaders and service providers and offering advice on Aboriginal child welfare issues. He is also available as an expert resource on Aboriginal child welfare to the [Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare](#).

Accessibility

To compete with emerging powers around the world in the new knowledge-based economy, we need everyone at their best. We are committed to an accessible Ontario by 2025 — four out of the five [accessibility standards](#) are now law.

Opportunity for All

As part of the [Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), we are undertaking a review of social assistance. This is the first major review of social assistance in over 20 years.

We have raised social assistance rates, including [Ontario Disability Support Program](#) (ODSP) rates by 13.7% since 2003, increasing income support for over 52,500 adults with a developmental disability.

Since 2003, 12,398 more families on ODSP are earning income through jobs – a 70% increase since 2003.

We have invested in developmental services and supports for adults with disabilities. The funding has helped:

- 2,900 more adults with a developmental disability receive supports and live close to their family and friends (about 20% more since 2003)
- 4,800 more people receive SSAH (24% more since 2003)
- 3,700 adults participate in the [Passport program](#).

The [Special Services at Home program](#) is helping 25,000 people with a developmental disability this year by providing services so they can live at home in their community.

We have announced the creation of Developmental Services Ontario that will be the new window where people apply for adult developmental services, which will be open for business in July 2011.

The [Don't Waste Talent](#) campaign breaks down the real and perceived barriers that discourage employers from employing people with disabilities, also helping to recruit and hire Ontarians with disabilities. Read [Corey's Story](#).

Did you know?

– 100% of public sector organizations report they are up to our [accessible Customer Service Standard](#).

We're helping 3,600 more children and youth with disabilities and special needs get the treatments they need faster and closer to home.

Autism

To help families and children with [autism](#), we have:

- Removed the previous government's discriminatory age six cut-off for [Intensive Behavioural Intervention](#) (IBI).
- Established transition teams to support children leaving IBI and starting or continuing in school at all publicly funded school boards across the province.
- Almost tripled the number of children receiving IBI services to more than 1,400 from just over 500 in 2003.
- More than quadrupled support to almost \$186.6 million in 2011–12 for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families.
- Introduced a respite program, serving over 7,000 kids in 2009–10; we also helped over 1,200 kids go to summer camps in 2010–11.
- We've announced more funding to support ABA (applied behavioural programs) – which will help 8,000 more children with autism over the next year.

Food and Agriculture

The world needs the good things that grow in Ontario. That's why we're investing in the growth and expansion of our agri-food sector and helping more Ontarians choose to buy local.

Risk Management

We are making the [Risk Management Program](#) for grain and oilseed farmers permanent.

We will also begin a new [Risk Management Program](#) for cattle, hog, sheep and veal farmers as well as a Self-Directed Risk Management Program for fruit and vegetable farmers.

These risk management programs will provide bankability, stability and predictability while responding to market trends over the long term.

Farming

The Premier's [Agri-Food Innovation Excellence Award](#) annually recognizes 55 regional award winners across the province. The program has attracted more than 900 applications highlighting on-farm innovations since 2007.

New measures are helping prevent, detect and respond to animal diseases to better protect people, animals and our economy.

We have provided more funding for farm income stabilization and support programs since 2003.

Since October 2003, the [Rural Economic Development program](#) has conducted 383 projects, resulting in more than \$1.1 billion in new economic activity in rural Ontario.

Did you know?

– Ontario exports roughly \$9 billion per year in agri-food products, with value-added products making up 72% of that total.

Did you know?

– Ontario's agri-food sector is one of the province's leading industries, contributing more than \$33 billion to the economy every year.

Processing

Since 2003, we've attracted more than \$2.5 billion in investment and the creation/retention of more than 26,000 jobs in Ontario's food processing sector.

Since April 2008, our [Growing Forward](#) plan has supported innovation and science, biosecurity, business development, environment and climate change, and food safety and traceability.

Did you know?

– Food and beverage processing is Ontario's second-largest manufacturing sector and supports about 100,000 jobs in communities across the province.

Did you know?

– Ontario's food processing industry is the third-largest employer of its kind in North America, generating about \$34 billion in revenue from goods manufactured in Ontario.

Did you know?

– Ontario is home to the 2nd-largest food processing hub in North America — the GTA — second only to the Chicago area.

Northern Economy

The global economic recession has had a deep impact in Northern communities. That's why we're making sure the North benefits from our plan.

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation's (NOHFC) budget was increased once again in the 2011 Budget. Since October 2003, the NOHFC has leveraged over \$2 billion toward 4,057 projects in Northern Ontario.

Through these investments, 13,745 new jobs have been created, 2,745 jobs have been sustained, and 513 co-op students were given work placements to gain experience in Northern Ontario.

Since the start of 2005, the NOHFC has made investments that include:

- Local community infrastructure
- 2,000 youth internships and co-op placements spanning the entire North including Far North remote communities
- Support for the emerging film, animation, and biotechnology sectors, while also expanding broadband and cellular service capacity in the North

Growth Plan for Northern Ontario

Building on the strength of Northerners, the [Growth Plan for Northern Ontario 2011](#) supports the steps Ontario has already taken to support job creation and economic growth in Northern Ontario.

The first wave of Growth Plan projects includes:

- Establishing two regional economic development planning area pilots
- Hosting a regional economic planning summit in spring 2011
- Initiating the development of a Northern Ontario multi-modal transportation strategy
- Establishing a Northern policy institute.

Mining and the Ring of Fire

In 2008, Northern Ontario became home to [our first diamond mine near Attawapiskat](#).

Key facts:

- Created 600 jobs during construction
- Created 400 new full-time jobs when production began in March 2008
- The mine will contribute \$6.7 billion to the Ontario economy over its 17-year life
- Thanks to the mine, a facility to cut and polish diamonds began production in Sudbury
- The Canadian diamond exchange was created in Toronto to trade rough and polished diamonds

Ontario remained Canada's leading mineral producer in 2010, a distinction that we have had for over a decade. The value of Ontario's mineral industry is about \$8 billion.

Exploration spending in Ontario during 2010 reached record levels and early indications suggest that Ontario is on track to reach new highs in 2011 as well. In 2010, Ontario was 4th in the world for exploration spending by the private sector — even when ranked against entire countries.

We're going to build on this success, particularly in the region known as the Ring of Fire.

The McFaulds Lake project, or Ring of Fire, is one of the most promising development opportunities in Northern Ontario in a century.

Key facts:

- The region contains one of the largest chromite deposits in the world — a key ingredient in stainless steel.

- Developing the region is part of our government's plan to help build a strong economy and create jobs in the North.
- Exploration and investment will be in cooperation with our First Nations partners.
- We hired a Ring of Fire Coordinator to make sure we're advancing economic development in this area together.

We've committed to a new project-based skills training program to help Aboriginal Peoples and Northern Ontarians participate and benefit from these emerging economic development opportunities.

Did you know?

– “Over the long term, mining is likely to continue to grow at a rapid pace. The Far North Act — passed by the Ontario legislature on September 23, 2010 — will create a framework for further economic development in Northern Ontario.”
— Conference Board of Canada

Did you know?

– *The Far North is home to 24,000 people living in 34 communities. First Nations people make up more than 90% of the region's population and live mainly in remote, fly-in communities.*

Forestry

So far, we've invested more than \$818 million in assistance in the [forestry sector](#).

Our programs have leveraged more than \$932 million in new private sector investments.

Over the past few years, we've worked closely with forestry-dependent communities across Northern Ontario to deal with a global decline in the forestry sector. Some examples include:

- Thunder Bay: Global Sticks, \$787,000 grant and \$2.9-million loan guarantee helped create 41 new jobs
- Fort Frances: AbitibiBowater, \$22.5-million grant, helped create 4 new jobs and retain 585
- Timmins: Little John Enterprises, \$251,000 grant helped retain 11 jobs
- Trenton: Norampac, \$1.8-million grant helped retain 137 jobs
- Terrace Bay: Terrace Bay Pulp, \$25-million loan for the restart of its mill, helped retain 375 jobs

We established a new tenure system to better manage public resources and make forest tenure and pricing open, transparent and responsive to the market. This will make

it easier for entrepreneurs to participate in the forest economy, and for Aboriginal and local communities to be involved and benefit from the forestry sector.

We also introduced the [Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program](#). It will help large industrial energy users such as pulp and paper mills to increase energy efficiency and reduce their electricity costs by an average of about 25%.

Did you know?

– The forests, peatlands and wetlands that make up the Far North sequester more than 12 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the air each year. In total, the Far North stores the equivalent of 97 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Newcomers

Ontario is home to people from every corner of the globe, who speak every language and who understand every market. Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

At Home in Ontario

Since 2003, we have invested in programs and services across Ontario to help newcomers settle, get language training, and become job-ready or licensed in their field. Over 41,000 newcomers are working in jobs consistent with their education and experience thanks to more than 220 bridge training programs in over 100 professions and trades.

We passed the Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006 and created the [Office of the Fairness Commissioner](#) to ensure a fair and transparent process for obtaining registration and licensing in 40 regulated professions.

We created [Global Experience Ontario](#) and [HealthForceOntario](#) to provide information and referral services to internationally trained individuals to help them qualify for professional practice in Ontario.

We created [Opportunities Ontario: Provincial Nominee Program](#) to help Ontario employers and investors attract and retain the best and brightest skilled immigrants and international students with master's and PhD degrees from Ontario universities.

Environment

We are blessed in Ontario with an abundance of natural resources, plentiful fresh water and vast green spaces for our families to enjoy. It's up to us to protect these precious

resources for our children and grandchildren, and to share what we know with other places around the world — because we only have one earth to call home.

Water

- **Water Technology**

Ontario has quickly and quietly become a hotbed of innovation in water conservation and purifying technologies waiting to be translated into economic opportunities and wealth.

Ensuring a safe, clean water supply is a global challenge. [Ontario has the talent and the resources to meet this challenge](#). From water conservation devices to fixing leaky municipal pipes using nanotechnology, we have over 1,000 companies hard at work marketing their products here at home and around the world.

The [Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act](#) encourages development of innovative water technologies and services, promotes sustainable infrastructure and water conservation, and is attracting economic development in Ontario.

To help solidify our lead in this emerging sector, we've launched two one-time competitions.

The first is a dedicated water round held under the [Ontario Research Fund-Research Excellence program](#), focusing on research in water and wastewater technologies.

The second is a new Ontario Water Innovation Award. We created the award to recognize a company that is developing a commercially successful water technology related to conservation and/or treatment of water.

These competitions promote greater cooperation and collaboration between all those involved in water innovation, including research institutions, not-for-profits, water technology and service companies, and municipal and provincial authorities.

- **Clean Water**

Two years ago on Earth Day, our government introduced a ban on the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides. Ontario's [cosmetic pesticides ban](#) is one of the toughest in the world. A recent study found that concentrations in urban streams of three pesticides commonly used in lawn care products have decreased by about 80% since the ban.

Ontario's water quality standards are some of the highest in the world. Last year, 99.88% of over 600,000 municipal drinking water samples taken in Ontario met all of our stringent drinking water requirements.

The new state-of-the-art [Walkerton Clean Water Centre](#) moved to its new permanent facility on June 10, 2010. The facility trains drinking water system operators from across Ontario and includes a demonstration water distribution system to offer more courses and hands-on training.

We are implementing all the recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry.

The Clean Water Act was passed in 2006. Ontario now has the toughest drinking water standards in North America. We're working to ensure all sources of municipal drinking water are protected. All municipal drinking water systems will have a new, comprehensive [Drinking Water Licence](#) by the end of this year.

- **Lake Simcoe**

We're protecting water quality in [Lake Simcoe](#) with the first watershed-based plan legislated in Canada. It provides a roadmap to help restore and protect the health of Lake Simcoe, and sets a new standard for the protection of Ontario's water resources. In 2010, we released the [Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy](#) — together, we're working towards achieving the whole-lake goal of 44 tonnes per year by 2045.

Green Space and Natural Habitat

We've preserved 4.3 million more acres since 2003, and we're committed to protecting another 46 million more acres in the Far North — nearly 20% of the entire province.

Working with our partners under the [50 Million Tree Program](#), we have planted 8.5 million new trees to make Ontario greener.

Ontario's new [Endangered Species Act](#) came into effect in June 2008. This legislation is among the toughest in North America and provides strengthened protection for [species at risk](#) and their habitats across Ontario.

Since 2008, Ontario has helped ensure a lasting natural legacy for all Ontarians by funding over 1,600 projects that have promoted species and habitat stewardship through the [Species at Risk Stewardship Fund](#) and [Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program](#).

In fall 2009, Ontario began implementing its [Woodland Caribou Conservation Plan](#). This plan includes the largest investment in a comprehensive caribou research, monitoring and management program anywhere in Canada.

Making sure Ontarians know about species at risk is as important as protecting them. The [Endangered Species of the Day](#) widget has proven to be very popular since it launched in February 2010. It has directed over 27,100 unique visitors to our species at

risk homepage, raising awareness. It was even profiled on [Apple's website](#) as their featured widget of the week.

Did you know?

– Ontario Parks have an annual [Fall Colour Report](#) to help plan an autumn getaway.

Did you know?

– The Far North provides essential habitats for more than 200 sensitive species, including species at risk like woodland caribou and wolverines, and Ontario's only populations of polar bears, beluga whales and snow geese.

Air Quality

We are strongly committed to protecting the health of Ontarians and improving air quality.

Working together we have made real progress towards our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. The National Inventory Report reports Ontario's 2009 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as 165 Mt. This is 7% below the province's 1990 emissions.

The closure of coal-fire generating stations, [Drive Clean](#) and emission trading have all led to significant emission reductions and they make our air cleaner to breathe.

Since 2005, we have introduced 59 new updated air standards, which is the biggest move on air standards in 30 years.

In 2010, we released our 39th annual [Air Quality in Ontario](#) report, which shows our air is improving.

Since 2003, levels of common pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and fine particulate matter have decreased.

In your Household

- **Electric Vehicles**

We know the world is heading toward electric vehicles and Ontario is leading the charge. We've introduced incentives that will make buying electric cars easier.

Effective July 1, 2010, Ontario consumers are eligible for an [incentive](#) ranging from \$5,000 to \$8,500 towards the purchase or lease of a new plug-in hybrid electric or

battery electric vehicle. The value of the incentive is based on the battery capacity of the vehicle.

Owners of eligible electric vehicles can get a unique green licence plate enabling them to use High Occupancy Vehicle lanes with a single occupant for five years as of July 2010.

Did you know?

– In addition to green licence plates, drivers of all vehicles in Ontario may choose a [French licence plate](#) with the slogan “Tant À Découvrir”. Current and past Ontario veterans can also now get a [special licence plate](#) for their motorcycles in recognition of their courage, commitment and dedication to their country.

- **Conservation**

Ontario is creating a culture of conservation that is helping us save 7,100 MW by 2030 – that’s like taking 2.4 million homes off the grid.

Over 230,000 fridges and major appliances have been collected under [The Great Refrigerator Roundup program](#), saving over 1 million megawatt hours. Participating families are saving up to \$150 year on the energy bills.

We’re helping families manage their energy use by installing [Smart Meters and time-of-use pricing](#). Creating awareness of how much energy we use and when will encourage families to use appliances, like clothes dryers, at off-peak times, taking strain off the grid.

As of May 1, 2011, the off-peak period starts at 7 p.m., adding an extra 10 off-peak hours every week.

Did you know?

– [Environmental education](#) has been added to the Ontario curriculum to promote environmental responsibility. We also support [Ontario EcoSchools](#) to encourage schools to get involved.

Did you know?

– Compact fluorescent light bulbs, use 75% less electricity and can last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

- **Bag it Back**

[Bag it Back](#), Ontario's deposit return program for recycling alcohol beverage containers, launched in 2007. Ontarians diverted over 109,000 tonnes of glass from landfills in 2010 through Bag it Back.

Now, over 90% of the glass containers returned by Ontarians are recycled for high-end uses like fiberglass insulation and new bottles. Together with the municipal blue box program, Bag it Back is helping keep Ontario green.

By December 2010, Ontarians had returned one billion wine and spirit containers for recycling and reuse.

Law and Order

We are committed to building stronger, safer communities in Ontario, and supporting the brave men and women who serve and protect us. Together we work to uphold Ontario's highest values and protect what is most valuable.

More Police Officers

Since 2003, we have provided funding for over 2,300 additional police officers across the province.

Ontario was the only province in Canada to dedicate every dollar from the [federal Police Officers Recruitment Fund](#) to frontline policing, which has put nearly 330 additional officers on Ontario streets.

Our communities are safer and more secure thanks to the efforts of Ontario's public safety employees.

Did you know?

– Since 2003, overall crime rates in Ontario have gone down by 17%, including an 11% drop in violent crime.

Tougher Laws on Road Safety

We toughened laws covering many aspects of safety, including:

- Escalating roadside sanctions for drinking drivers found in the warn range — blood alcohol concentration from 0.05 to 0.08.
- A [ban on the use of hand-held devices while driving](#).
- A new zero blood alcohol content requirement for all drivers 21 years of age and under.

- Stronger penalties for careless driving and other offences, including road-side vehicle seizure for drivers traveling at more than 50km/h over the speed limit.
- Improved measures strengthening our Graduated Licensing System by implementing tougher sanctions for violating novice licence conditions and targeting drivers that decide to drink and drive.
- [Mandated speed limiters](#) for large trucks to cap speeds at 105 km/h.
- Modernizing standards for school buses in Ontario by repealing out-of-date requirements and updating the safety features on new buses.

We support more than 170 [Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere](#) (RIDE) participants, including municipal, OPP and First Nations police services.

Did you know?

– Since February 2010, police across Ontario have issued over 63,700 tickets targeting distracted driving. That's an average of 150 tickets per day.

Did you know?

– Ontario had the lowest impaired driving offence rates in Canada in 2009, 47% lower than the national average.

Guns and Gangs

We're working with our justice partners to keep Ontario's communities safe with the successful [Provincial Guns and Gangs Initiative](#).

[Provincial Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy \(PAVIS\)](#)

In January 2011, we announced funding for specialized rapid response police teams to fight illegal gun and gang activity in 22 Ontario communities.

[Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy \(TAVIS\)](#)

We've invested in TAVIS since 2006 to help police and prosecutors investigate and prosecute gun crimes in the City of Toronto. As of December 2010, TAVIS has helped get over 1,200 guns off the street and led to more than 19,000 arrests.

Did you know?

– Since 2007, PAVIS has led to more than 1,100 arrests, 2,000 criminal charges and the removal of 200 illegal firearms.

Justice

We're transforming the province's [legal aid system](#) to help ensure that Ontarians have access to the legal services they need regardless of their ability to pay.

We have launched the [Justice Ontario website](#) and hotline, a new one-stop entry point to help Ontarians find answers about their justice system.

We are committed to working with Aboriginal communities across Ontario to improve access to justice and services for victims of crime through our [Aboriginal Justice Strategy](#). We have provided:

- Funding to the Nishnawbe Aski Nation to provide services to male victims in northern Aboriginal communities who have suffered sexual abuse.
- Annual funding for Akwe:go to provide urban Aboriginal children with tools and support to build upon and enhance their ability to make healthy choices.

We are committed to ensuring that victims of crime receive the supports and services they need, when and where they need them most.

Since February 2011, we have announced or started new programs and services that will provide:

- Vulnerable victims and their families with the additional support they need to participate more fully in the criminal court process.
- Assistance to victims, most of whom are women and children, as they make their way through the family court system.
- Families of homicide victims with access to additional assistance to help ease their financial burden during a time of terrible loss.
- Support for victims of human trafficking.
- Dedicated services and support for male survivors of sexual abuse.

We introduced family law reforms to better protect and support Ontario children and families in times of family breakdown and distress. By making the family justice system easier to use, more focused, more affordable and less confrontational, we're improving access to justice in Ontario.

To improve the delivery of family court services, we have also added 24 judges to preside over family and child protection cases in Toronto, Windsor, Kitchener/Cambridge, Brantford, Northeastern Ontario and Northwestern Ontario.

Did you know?

– In January 2010, the [Small Claims Court](#) limit was increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000 to allow more people and businesses to resolve more claims in a simple and inexpensive way.

Photo Card

We have launched a photo card to help 1.5 million Ontarians 16 years and older who do not have a valid driver's licence. Photo ID will help in many everyday situations that those of us who drive often take for granted, including:

- Voting
- Opening a new bank account
- Cashing a cheque
- Applying for a loan
- Gaining admittance to bars, clubs and casinos
- Boarding a domestic flight
- Renting a movie

New Facilities

Ontario is building a new [Forensic Services and Coroner's Complex](#) that is expected to be completed in 2013. This investment will enhance Ontario's ability to meet the demands of modern forensic investigations and criminal prosecutions.

We continue to replace or upgrade aging OPP facilities for front-line officers. Since 2009, new or upgraded OPP detachments have been opened in Essex County, Nottawasaga and Dufferin County Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Gravenhurst and Aurora.

The following 15 projects have been undertaken in First Nations communities and are now complete:

- **13 new facilities**, including Six Nations, Mattagami, Webequie, Wunnumin, Fort Albany, Cat Lake, Peawanuck, Kasabonika, Pikangikum, Couchiching, Fort Severn, Sandy Lake and Whitefish Bay; and
- **2 building additions**, including Wikwemikong and United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin Police Service.

We are continuing to invest in capital projects to improve the justice system and ensure safe, strong communities for Ontario. Our 2011 Budget continues our commitment to fund major infrastructure projects in Quinte, St. Thomas, Waterloo and Thunder Bay. This follows the opening of two new courthouses in Durham (October 2010) and Sioux Lookout (December 2010).

Health care

A strong, public health care system gives our families peace of mind, and it gives our workers and businesses a real competitive advantage.

That's why we've taken our health care system from deep cuts and the brink of privatization and rebuilt it even stronger. We've shortened wait times and done more than ever before to help prevent illness. We've hired thousands of new nurses, built 18 new hospitals and we've gone from worst to first in wait times in Canada.

The next part of our plan is to seize more opportunities for better health and to prevent illness. When it comes to staying healthy, we're just getting started.

Access to Care

Before 2003, many communities across Ontario were experiencing a shortage of doctors and nurses. Our patient-centered approach is delivering better care for families where and when they need it.

More Doctors

Since 2004, we have helped 1.3 million more Ontarians find a family doctor.

By 2011–12, we will have added 260 more first-year medical school spaces — a 38% increase since 2004.

In 2005, we opened the [Northern Ontario School of Medicine](#) (NOSM) — the first new medical school in 30 years — with main campuses in Thunder Bay and Sudbury and research sites across Northern Ontario. The school has graduated 107 new doctors since the spring of 2009.

Three new undergraduate medical education campuses have been established in Kitchener-Waterloo, St. Catharines and Windsor. In September 2011, a fourth campus will open in Mississauga.

Funding to support the retraining of [international medical graduates](#) has increased from \$16 million to an estimated \$83 million since 2003. This means an additional 1,065 international medical graduates are now practicing in Ontario as of 2009.

To improve access to care for Northerners, we raised the travel grant mileage rate under the [Northern Health Travel Grant Program](#) to 41 cents a kilometre and introduced an accommodation allowance of \$100 per eligible trip. We also created the [HealthForceOntario Northern and Rural Recruitment and Retention Initiative](#) which helps attract more physicians, including new physician graduates, to highly rural and Northern communities using financial incentives.

Did you know?

– Health Care Connect is helping Ontarians find doctors in their communities. So far, 50,000 Ontarians have been referred using this service. Connect at www.ontario.ca/healthcareconnect

More Nurses

Since 2003, we have supported the creation of more than 11,500 nursing positions and we also [guarantee](#) a full-time job opportunity for every new nursing graduate.

We're helping to keep experienced nurses on the job longer, retaining their valuable knowledge and skills with programs like the [Late Career Nurse Initiative](#), and creating new nursing roles like the Registered Nurse-Surgical First Assist and Registered Nurse Performed Flexible Sigmoidoscopy.

We more than doubled the number of primary health care nurse practitioner education spaces from 75 to 176.

Did you know?

– Ontario is one of only a few places in the world to provide a job guarantee for new nursing graduates.

Family Health Teams

We're creating 200 [Family Health Teams](#) made up of health care professionals working collaboratively to provide a range of primary health care services to almost 3 million Ontarians.

We're enhancing the scope of practice of a number of regulated professions, including nurse practitioners, pharmacists and physiotherapists, both in regular clinics and Family Health Teams. By putting more tools in the hands of people qualified to use them, we're helping our health care system run smoother and making more efficient use of limited resources. For example:

- If your nurse practitioner suspects a problem with your thyroid, he/she could immediately order an ultrasound to rule out serious issues.
- A pharmacist could prick your finger to obtain blood in order to show you the proper use of a glucose monitoring device.

- If you've got neck pain, your physiotherapist could order an x-ray if necessary and give you your diagnosis.

Did you know?

– *Health Care Options is helping Ontarians find a family doctor or nurse practitioner close to home. So far, over 62,000 Ontarians have been referred using this service. Connect at www.ontario.ca/healthcareoptions.*

Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics

Twenty-five [nurse practitioner-led clinics](#) will be operational by 2011–12. These clinics are helping to improve access to care for more than 40,000 Ontarians.

Did you know?

– *We are the first Canadian province to introduce nurse practitioner-led clinics in our communities.*

Wait Times and Long-Term Care

In Ontario, no one who gets sick or needs help is turned away. Quality care is also one more economic advantage we have over the competition. Together we have strengthened that advantage by lowering surgical wait times and improving our long-term care facilities and programs.

Wait Times

In 2003, Ontarians were waiting longer than medically recommended to obtain surgical and diagnostic services. That's why in 2004, we launched our [Wait Times Strategy](#).

In 2008, we expanded the strategy to address emergency room wait times.

To date, we have invested about \$1.5 billion to fund more than two million additional medical procedures, redesign system processes, reduce bottlenecks to improve patient flow, measure progress and publicly [track results](#).

Did you know?

– *Ontario now has some of the shortest wait times for key surgical procedures in Canada.*

Long-Term Care

We're making key investments to help further reduce wait times by providing choices to Ontarians, preventing more hospital stays and ensuring that the right type of care is available.

These investments include:

- \$1.1 billion over four years, beginning in 2007, for different community programs under the Aging At Home Strategy, which provides support to seniors and caregivers to help seniors stay healthy, and live independently and comfortably in their own homes. There are 58% more people receiving home care since 2003.
- An additional \$1.3 billion in long-term care homes since 2003, adding about 9,122 more beds and increasing staff in the homes by 7,000.
- An increase of \$788 million in funding since 2003 for community care access centres to assess the needs of Ontarians and manage the delivery of home care, personal support and homemaking services for those who need it.
- A 57.7 per cent increase in funding since 2003 for assisted living services in supportive housing, giving seniors more options for staying in their community.

Our Long-Term Care Homes Act is now the legislative authority for improving the quality of care and improving the accountability of long-term care homes for the care, treatment and well-being of over 76,000 residents.

Prevention

Healthy people enjoy a higher quality of life and cost the health care sector less. That's why we are committed to active and healthy living, health promotion and illness prevention.

Vaccines and Newborn Screening

To help our kids get off to a healthy start, we continue to offer vaccines for children under two, saving families up to \$790 per child. These vaccines protect against:

- Meningococcal disease
- Pneumococcal disease
- Chicken pox

- Rotavirus
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) — a major cause of cervical cancer.

We also offer free measles, mumps and rubella vaccines through a catch-up immunization program to protect postsecondary students and young adults against mumps infection.

Before 2003, Ontario screened for two rare genetic disorders in newborns. Since then, we have expanded to screen for 28 rare genetic diseases and disorders, including sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis.

Did you know?

– Ontario's newborn screening program is the most comprehensive in Canada.

Did you know?

– Ontario's vaccination program saves families almost \$1,400 per child.

Cancer Screening and Care

We're providing about 90,000 more breast cancer screening exams over the next three years. This will expand the Ontario Breast Screening Program so that it reaches women between the ages of 30 and 49 who are at high risk. We're also supporting more exams for women aged 50-69.

Before 2003, we didn't cover any screening for colorectal cancer — the second deadliest form of cancer in Canada. In 2007, we launched our province-wide [colorectal cancer screening program](#). So far, it has funded 115,000 colonoscopy procedures and processed nearly 1.3 million fecal occult blood tests.

We also [added the PSA test](#) as an insured service under OHIP for eligible men so they can detect prostate cancer earlier.

We're now funding Rituxan as an initial treatment for a type of leukemia (chronic lymphocytic leukemia), improving overall survival for patients.

Surgical wait times for cancer surgeries are now 25 days shorter than in 2003.

Diabetes

We helped the growing number of Ontarians living with diabetes through a mix of prevention, technology, personal planning, and access to specialized resources and health professionals.

The [Ontario Diabetes Strategy](#) (ODS) expands diabetes programs and services to improve health care and health outcomes for Ontarians living with diabetes or at risk of developing diabetes.

Key results of the ODS:

- As of June 2010, 100% of Ontarians with diabetes who wish to have a primary care provider now have one.
- As of March 31, 2011, we've increased the number of Diabetes Education Teams from 220 to 321 to help people better manage their diabetes and diabetes-related complications.
- We created Diabetes Regional Coordination Centres in each of the 14 LHIN regions to coordinate diabetes services and care.
- We provided diabetes self-management and self-management support training to over 1,000 health care providers and individuals with diabetes. By the end of March 2011, we will have provided self-management training to an additional 4,000 people with diabetes.
- In 2011 we established the first three Centres for Complex Diabetes Care (CCDCs), which provide specialized, patient-centered care and treatment for people with complex diabetes and associated health needs. Each CCDC has the capacity to support 3,000–6,000 people with complex diabetes. Three additional CCDCs will be established by the end of March 2012.

Did you know?

– Ontario was the first province in Canada to fully fund insulin pumps for children and youth with type 1 diabetes, saving families up to \$18,300 per child in the first five years. The program was expanded to include adults with type 1 diabetes in September 2008.

Flu

This will be the 12th year the [Universal Influenza Immunization Program](#) has been offered to all Ontarians six months of age and older who live, work or attend school in Ontario.

Using the [Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic](#), we responded to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic — the first flu pandemic in more than 40 years. Specific measures included:

- Enhanced monitoring of the spread of influenza across Ontario
- New H1N1 clinical guidelines
- The H1N1 vaccine program, of which Ontario achieved a 38% population uptake
- Deployment of antiviral medication for treatment
- Deployment of protective supplies and equipment to health care providers
- Public education campaigns on how to stay healthy and where to get the seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccine.

Smoking

We have worked hard to [toughen tobacco laws](#), ban smoking in public places and encourage more Ontarians to [quit altogether](#).

- May 2006: [smoking was banned](#) indoors, in workplaces and enclosed public spaces.
- May 2008: the [retail display of tobacco products was banned](#).
- January 2009: the [smoking ban was extended](#) to include motor vehicles when children under 16 are present.
- July 2010: the sale of or distribution of flavoured [cigarillos](#) was banned to protect [youth and young adults](#).
- January 2011: expanded access to cessation supports through participating Family Health Teams (supports include over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapy combined with counselling at no cost to the smoker).

Did you know?

– *The number of smokers in Ontario went down 24 per cent between 2000 and 2009.*

Healthy Lifestyles

Our [Healthy Communities Fund](#) provides support for local health promotion initiatives across the province. This year, over 170 local and provincial organizations will receive grants through this fund.

[Ontario's After-School Initiative](#) funds 117 organizations delivering after-school programs in over 317 sites, reaching approximately 18,000 children and youth.

We increased our support for the [Student Nutrition Program](#), helping to serve over 600,000 elementary and secondary students nutritious breakfasts and morning snacks across Ontario in 2010–11.

We have provided 3,028 individual Ontario athletes with direct financial assistance through the [Quest for Gold Program](#) since it began in 2006. About 10,000 additional athletes have also benefited from the funding provided by the Quest for Gold Program through competitions and events such as the Ontario [Summer](#) and [Winter](#) Games and the [Canada Games](#).

We successfully bid for the [2015 Pan/Parapan American Games](#). We established the [Toronto 2015 Organizing Committee](#), which is responsible for organizing the Games.

Hosting the Games will:

- Trigger investment in new and existing sports and recreation infrastructure as well as a legacy fund.

- Create 15,000 jobs in construction and Games operations.
- Attract 250,000 tourists.
- Bring 10,000 athletes and team officials to Ontario.
- Build and train a team of more than 20,000 volunteers — a valuable foundation for future events and community building.
- Inspire all Ontarians by showcasing the value of sport and the health benefits of active living.
- Promote domestic pride and civic engagement.
- Celebrate Ontario's rich diversity.

Did you know?

– We are the first province to pass legislation banning trans fat from food and beverages sold in schools. And we are one of the first provinces to mandate 20 minutes of physical activity every day for students in all elementary schools.

Did you know?

– It's estimated we spend \$11 billion every year to treat chronic diseases. We have a plan to bring that down.

Mental Health

We remain committed to creating a mental health system that delivers the right services and supports to children and youth when they need them and as close to home as possible.

More Support

We're investing in a new [Mental Health and Addictions Strategy](#), starting with children and youth. By 2013–14, this strategy's funding will reach \$93 million per year.

The [Working Together for Kids' Mental Health](#) program is now available in four communities where we've partnered with schools and service providers. Front-line workers (such as teachers and child and youth workers) can now get the risk-screening and needs-assessment training and tools they need in order to identify issues sooner, and to link children and youth with the right services.

Through the [Ontario Child and Youth Telepsychiatry Program](#), we provided access to psychiatric consultations for more than 1,400 young people living in rural, remote and under-served communities, as well as education and training for professionals working in community-based agencies.

We continue to work closely with the [Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health](#) to provide mental health agencies with knowledge and best practices so that children and youth receive the best possible mental health services.

Medicine: Drugs and Research

We're working to get fair drug prices for Ontarians today, while supporting the research and innovation that goes into better medicine tomorrow.

Research and Innovation

In 2010, we launched a \$161 million [Life Sciences Commercialization Strategy](#). We also committed \$15 million to the Ontario Brain Institute, which was established in 2010 and is poised to become an internationally recognized centre of excellence in brain and neuroscience research and innovation.

We continue to support the [Ontario Institute for Cancer Research](#), launched in 2005, with an annual commitment of over \$80 million.

Through the Global Leadership Round in Genomics & Life Sciences ([GL²](#)), we committed funding to 19 world-class genomics research projects at eight research institutions. [GL²](#) funds will support the work of more than 230 researchers and will also help create jobs for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research assistants, associates and technicians from across Canada and abroad. Their work could lead to the discovery of cures for diseases like cancer while ushering in a new era of personalized medicine.

These initiatives have helped Ontario become a leading life sciences hub in North America, with a strong concentration of life sciences researchers, institutions and companies.

Fair Drug Prices

Ontario spends more on generic drugs than most developed countries and has been paying some of the highest prices for generic drugs. High drug prices prevent money from being invested in front-line services families depend on.

Since 2006, we have [made changes](#) to get more value for our money on prescription drugs and we're increasing access to more effective drugs.

These changes are saving us \$500 million per year which we're investing back into the front-line of our health care system.

Changes include:

- Faster approval and funding process for new and more effective drugs.
- Lowering the prices of most generic drugs to 50% of the cost of the comparable brand name product.

Did you know?

– Compared to some American states, we paid as much as five times more for the most popular generic drugs. With the changes we've made to the drug system, the cost of most generics is going down by at least 50%.