

Progress Report 2014: education



Ontario is now recognized across Canada and around the globe as a leader in educational excellence, and the government is committed to continuing to raise the bar even higher. Ontario's 2014 education progress report highlights achievements that are creating opportunities for future generations, such as:

- introducing full-day kindergarten
- modernizing child care
- improving access to postsecondary education and skills training

On this page

- [Child care and early years](#)
- [Elementary and secondary school](#)
- [College, university and apprenticeship](#)
- [Training](#)

Recommended for you

[Progress Report 2014: health care](#)

THIS SCHOOL YEAR,

a total of about
184,000
children are enrolled in
full-day kindergarten.



BY SEPTEMBER 2014,

full-day kindergarten will be available
to **four- and five-year-olds**
across Ontario.



FAMILIES CAN SAVE UP TO **\$6,500**

PER CHILD in child care costs by having their children
enrolled in full-day kindergarten.



150,000

more elementary students are **meeting or beating** the
provincial standard in reading, writing and math in
2012-2013, compared to 2002-03.



83% of high school students are graduating from high school.

[text version](#)

Education gives people the opportunity to prosper and the security to pursue their ambitions in life. It is the ladder we use to climb up into a better job and increased prosperity, and it is how our children will achieve their potential in a province of expanding opportunity.

Education is also essential for the health of our democracy, one in which our public institutions take care of people and help them do more in life. This link between our education and our wellbeing today and tomorrow means we can't afford to settle for a good education system. It's why we've made great education a starting point for the people of Ontario.

A great education system is never static; it must constantly evolve to meet the changing needs of families, students, teachers, workers and businesses. This requires ongoing attention and

collaboration between government and its many education partners, a commitment to continually investing public resources where they will have the greatest impact, and thoughtful measurement of those investments.

But in Ontario, governments have not always treated the education system as a critical means by which we build a thriving economy, a stronger democracy and a brighter future for the people of the province. When governments have stalled, students and people of all ages have seen their current and future prospects diminished, communities have suffered, and the economy has performed below capacity.

To build opportunity, create security and improve the lives of people across the province every day, since 2003 the Ontario government has shown an unwavering and unprecedented commitment to building the world's best education system.

Working with all partners and all people, we've invested billions in new schools, universities and colleges, in programs, in people, and built a modern, equitable and excellent education system from early-childhood all the way through to skills upgrading for people switching careers later in life.

Progress measurements confirm that Ontario now boasts a world-leading education system. Since 2003, elementary test scores and high school graduation rates are up, and post-secondary enrolment and attainment are up as well.

Our highly educated workers are drawing the eye of the world's most innovative companies. As new sectors emerge and our educated workers renew existing ones to compete globally, we're setting the stage for the people of Ontario to lead this century just as they have the last one.

Child care and early years

To prepare children for success in life and ease the burden families were facing in finding and affording high-quality child care, we've increased child care funding by 90 per cent since 2003. We've also modernized child care and made funding more responsive to local needs and families across Ontario. As of March 31, 2013:

- since 2003, licensed spaces in child care centres have increased by approximately 107,400
- there are 5,050 licensed child care centres in the province with a total capacity of 294,490 spaces — 143,020 of them in publicly funded schools
- since 2003, the province has increased funding for child care by 90 per cent to more than \$1 billion in 2013-14

As more four- and five-year-old children enter the school system through full-day kindergarten, Ontario's child care providers will adapt to serve younger children. We're providing \$346 million in child care funding over four years to stabilize this transition, and to continue modernizing the child care system:

- we're investing \$63.5 million a year to permanently fill the funding gap left when the federal government walked away from its child care responsibility
- we have provided investments growing to \$51 million by 2015-16 to support child care operators, parents and children to seamlessly transition into full-day kindergarten
- we're providing \$12 million over five years to help non-profit child care centres with renovations that will improve the care of younger children
- since 2011 we have invested an additional \$17.8 million to support on-reserve child care for First Nations
- we're providing \$113 million to school boards to support retrofits and renovations for school-based child care services, so that high quality child care is available where families need it

Our government is committed to supporting the child care and early learning needs of children and families through an increasingly integrated system of high-quality, responsive programs and services.

Elementary and secondary school

Infrastructure

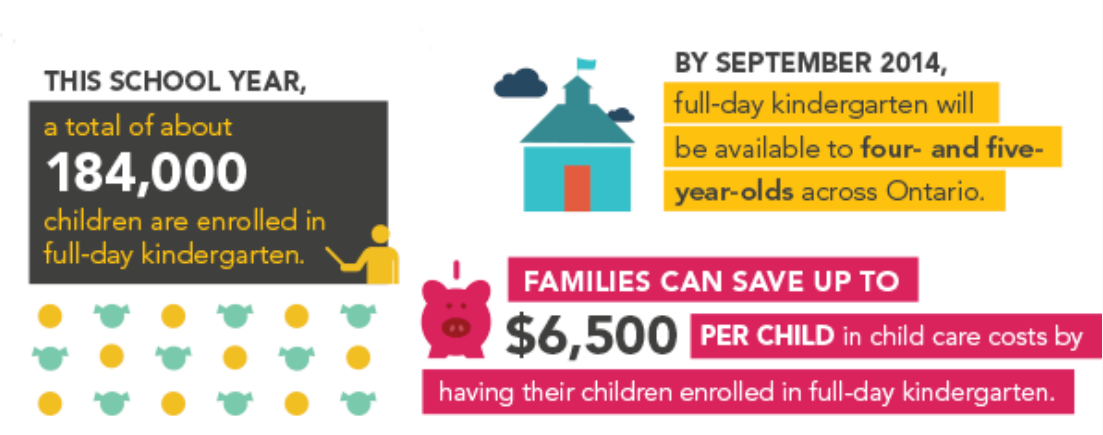
Since 2003, we have invested more than \$12 billion to make schools better places to learn. With

27,000 renewal projects (e.g., replacing roofs, windows and boilers) and nearly 650 new schools built, under construction, or planned, we’re making sure crumbling infrastructure never stands in the way of student achievement.

French-language education

As part of our commitment to excellence and equity in education, our government has invested \$609 million in the French-language education system at the elementary and secondary levels between 2003 and 2013 — a 67 per cent increase in funding per student.

French language school boards are now providing a great education to nearly 99,000 students in Ontario, and are projected to receive \$1.36 billion in 2013-14.



Full day kindergarten

More than 184,000 four- and five-year-olds in approximately 2,600 schools are benefitting from full day kindergarten this school year. We’re giving them the best start and saving parents up to \$6,500 per child.

By September 2014, full day kindergarten will be available to approximately 260,000 children at 3,600 schools across Ontario.

Depending on demand, some boards are offering [before and after school programs](#) to help with a seamless transition between child care and school.

Did you know?

Ontario students are ranked among the best in English-speaking in the world.

Growth of full day kindergarten:

- September 2010: 35,000 students; 600 schools
- September 2011: 50,000 students; 800 schools
- September 2012: 120,000 students; 1,700 schools
- September 2013: 184,000 students; 2,600 schools
- September 2014: 260,000 students; 3,600 schools

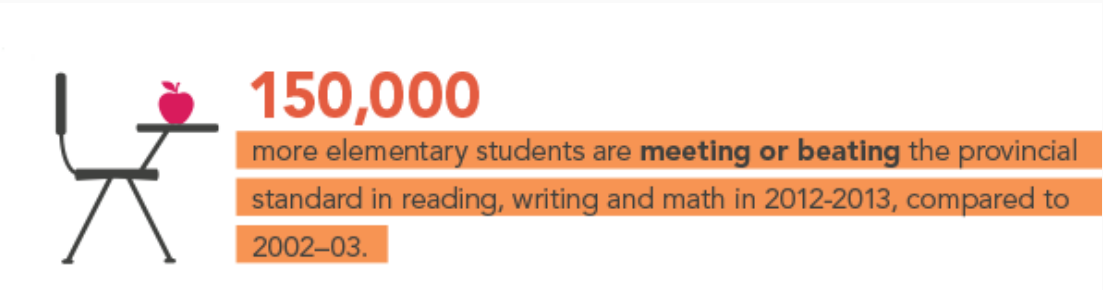
Assessment results

2012–13 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment results for reading, writing and math:

- 71 per cent of students in Grades 3 and 6 are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard (a “B” grade) — up 17 percentage points from 54 per cent in 2002-03
- over 150,000 more elementary students are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard compared to 2002–03

Did you know?

The 2010 Pan Canadian Assessment Program showed our Grade 8 students are ranked among the top in Canada.



Ontario students continue to perform above the OECD average in every category in the 2012 Program for International Student Assessment test.

Student success

More students are graduating high school with confidence in their abilities and direction in their life. To make high-school learning accessible and enriching for all young people, students in grades 7 to 12 need an education that fits their strengths, goals and interests.

The programs Ontario has designed to help all students succeed include:

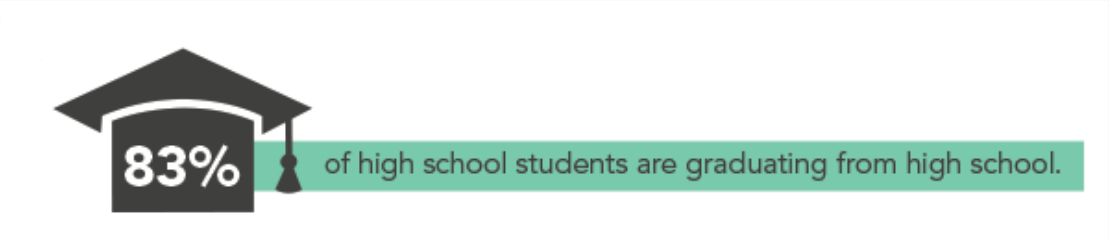
- [Specialist High Skills Major](#): allows students to experience a future career path and begin developing specialized skills through classroom courses, workplace experiences and sector certifications. This school year, enrolment in Specialist High Skills Major programs rose again. About 42,000 grade 11 and 12 students are participating in one of 19 majors now offered, including aviation and aerospace, environment, justice, community safety and emergency services, and more
- [E Learning](#): gives students access to 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. In 2013-14, approximately 22,000 students are participating in Dual Credit programs
- [Co-operative Education](#): students can earn up to two of the compulsory high school credits they need to graduate through hands-on learning in a workplace
- [The School Support Initiative \(SSI\)](#): a partnership between the Ministry of Education and selected school boards where pass rates in Grades 9 and 10 applied compulsory courses are below the provincial rate, and students may not be on track to graduate within four or five years. The majority of participating schools in SSI have seen consistent improvement in student achievement

Ontario is also helping struggling high school students get back on track to graduate:

- every school board has a Student Success Leader who works 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

Tiffany Sherri Caldwell from Saugeen District Secondary School in Port Elgin became a skilled welder after she was crowned prom queen.

[Read about inspiring student success stories](#)



Grad rates

Working with students, parents and educators, Ontario’s [Student Success Strategy](#) has helped raise the high school graduation rate for ten consecutive years.

In 2003-04, only 68 per cent of students graduated from high school. Today, that number is 83 per cent.

Our Student Success Strategy means 138,000 more high school grads than Ontario would have had the rate remained at the 2004 level.

Graduation rates in Ontario:

2003 04: 68%
2004 05: 71%
2005 06: 73%
2006 07: 75%
2007 08: 77%
2008 09: 79%
2009 10: 81%
2010 11: 82%
2011-12: 83%
2012-13: 83%

College, university and apprenticeship

Higher learning leads to higher paying jobs and a stronger economy across Ontario. That’s why we’ve invested heavily to expand capacity at our institutions, to develop programs that give people workforce-ready skills, and to keep the cost of postsecondary education affordable for families.

We want to make sure that young people are not deterred from getting the right skills and the right training.

30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant

In January 2012, Ontario introduced the 30% Off Ontario Tuition grant to help low and middle income families send their children to college or university.

In 2013-14, the grant is saving students in a university or college degree program \$1,730, while students in college diploma and certificate programs will save \$790 — money that can be put towards things like textbooks or housing.

About 230,000 students received the 30% Off Ontario Tuition grant in 2012-13, up from 207,000 in 2011-12. And we’ve expanded eligibility requirements this year so that about 5,000 more students can benefit from the extra support. To help the most number of young people, students who apply for OSAP are automatically considered for the grant.

Ontario continues to have one of the most generous student assistance programs in the country. More than 370,000 students — more than half of all full-time students — received student financial aid in 2012-13, including the 30% Off Ontario Tuition grant.

More spaces

Since 2002-03, there are more than 160,000 more students enrolled at Ontario colleges or universities, an increase of over 40 per cent. The increase during this period is greater than any comparable period in Ontario’s history, including the 1960s. Enrolment at Ontario’s universities is up 49 per cent from 2002 03. At Ontario colleges, enrolment is up 27 per cent.

Since 2002-03, Ontario has increased enrolment in post-graduate programs by 60 per cent.

Through our investments, we have created another 260 first-year medical school spaces, established four new medical education campuses, and are providing additional funding to improve the quality of undergraduate medical education.

Expanding capacity

Ontario has introduced a plan to guide major capacity expansions at postsecondary institutions to ensure students have access to spaces where they are needed most.

The Major Capacity Expansion Policy Framework defines criteria for where new or expanded campuses should be located, and a Call for Proposals was issued to the sector on March 27th. Working in collaboration with municipalities, universities’ and colleges’ expansion proposals will be evaluated to determine how they:

Did you know?

In 2013, in Ontario, employment increased by 7,000 for adults aged 25 and over with a high school education, while it increased by 93,600 for those with postsecondary education.

- increase spaces in underserved areas and align with provincial growth and economic development plans
- align with their strategic mandate agreements and their priorities under the [Differentiation Policy Framework](#)
- demonstrate value for money and provide regional and provincial economic benefits
- improve quality, innovation and competitiveness
- increase affordability for both students and taxpayers

Apprenticeships

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

Annual apprenticeship registrations have grown from 17,000 to more than 32,000 in the last ten years. We'll continue to sign up new apprentices while increasing support to help registered apprentices complete their training.

We also established the Ontario College of Trades to modernize Ontario's apprenticeship and trades training system.

Modernizing facilities

Since introducing our Reaching Higher Plan in 2005-06, our government has invested \$2.6 billion in capital funding for Ontario colleges and universities.

Our most recent investments have produced over 5.5 million additional gross square feet of space at our colleges and universities with an additional 1.6 million gross square feet of renovations and modernization to existing space.

The government has committed a further \$669 million in capital funding to support an additional 24 projects currently in progress at Ontario colleges and universities.

Our investments will help improve teaching facilities and generate the advanced technological infrastructure needed to keep our colleges and universities at the forefront of scientific advancement.

French-language education

Funding to French-language postsecondary education increased by over 62 per cent between 2003-04 and 2012-13. This targeted funding of \$83.6 million was enhanced in October 2013 by a further investment of \$14.5 million over the next three years to help universities and colleges expand their French-language programs and services — including expansions already underway at Glendon College, Collège Boréal and La Cité collégiale.

Training

Second career

The Second Career program provides funding, based on individual need, to laid off, unemployed individuals, for up to two years of skills training to help them find jobs in occupations with demonstrated labour market prospects in Ontario.

Second Career has helped more than 76,000 individuals retrain since June 2008. More than 81 per cent of Second Career clients who responded to a follow up survey indicated that skills training funded through Second Career helped them with their future employment.

Help finding work

Individuals can get help finding work through the new Employment Service, which combines former federally delivered programs with Ontario's programs in a more community-centred, streamlined system.

More than 600,000 Ontarians were served through this program last year. Overall, 63 per cent of these clients have found employment after leaving the program, and an additional 15 per cent have gone on to further education or training.

Youth Jobs Strategy

Higher youth unemployment threatens to create a generation of stalled hopes and stagnant wages. We've introduced a Youth Jobs Strategy to help young people overcome the challenge they face entering the workforce and launching a successful career. It includes four elements:

The Youth Employment Fund, introduced in Budget 2013 and launched on September 23, 2013, is providing \$195 million over two years to create job placements for 25,000 youth. While the program is available to all Ontario youth, we're making a special effort to help youth facing barriers to work and youth living in high-needs communities. The Fund has put more than 9,800 young people into job placements as of March 28, 2014.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Fund will provide \$45-million to our next generation of business owners through training, mentorship and start-up capital.

The Youth Innovation Fund will provide \$30 million for campus-linked accelerators and internship programs for graduate and PhD students.

And the Youth Skills Connections Fund will provide \$25 million to help address the skills gap in Ontario by promoting partnerships among business, labour, not-for-profits, educators and youth.

In March, 2013, we announced two new projects under the Youth Skills Connections Fund. George Brown College and Ryerson University will partner with business and labour to deliver specialized programs that will prepare 212 young people for jobs in the food, metal manufacturing and information communications technology sectors.

Summer Jobs

We've increased the number of students receiving help with summer jobs from just over 60,000 in 2004 to more than 100,000 in 2013. Many of Ontario's summer jobs programs target youth in high needs neighbourhoods.

Students and youth can go online to:

- find job listings
- search for a job through Employment Ontario agencies
- improve their marketing skills and resume writing
- apply for a job with the Ontario government

Through the Summer Job Service, employers are also encouraged to hire students and provide hands on training for tomorrow's workforce through a \$2 per hour hiring incentive.

Internationally trained professionals

Since 2003, we have invested in 300 bridge training programs that have helped more than 50,000 newcomers get the training they need to find a job in their field.

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 registration and licensing in 40 regulated professions.

Global Experience Ontario is a one stop information and resource centre that has helped nearly 10,000 internationally trained people so far.

This school year, Ontario has provided tuition free language programs that will help more than 120,000 newcomers improve their ability to speak English or French.

Funding to support the training and integration of international medical graduates is five times what it was in 2003, meaning 1,521 more international medical graduates were practising in Ontario as of 2011.

In November 2012, the government released Ontario's first immigration strategy, which was developed after reviewing recommendations from Ontario's Expert Roundtable on

Did you know?
Ontario offers more training

Immigration, as well as consulting with many sectors and stakeholders across the province.

The goal of the strategy is to make immigration work better for Ontario’s economic development and better support newcomers and their families so they can succeed and fully contribute to Ontario’s economic prosperity.

positions and assessments for international medical graduates each year than all other provinces combined.

[Learn about our progress on health](#)

- Graphic 1 – This graphic shows a big blackboard with text on the blackboard that says, “This school year, a total of about 184,000 children are enrolled in full-day kindergarten.” To the right of the blackboard is a yellow, stick figure of a teacher pointing to the blackboard with a stick. Facing the blackboard and the teacher are 18 little school children.
- Graphic 2 – This graphic shows the outside of a small school. To the right of the school is text that reads, “By September 2014, full-day kindergarten will be available to four-and-five-year-olds across Ontario.”
- Graphic 3 – This graphic shows a red piggy bank and to the right side of the piggy bank is text that reads, “Families can save up to \$6,500 per child in child care costs by having their children enrolled in full-day kindergarten.”
- Graphic 4 – This graphic shows an empty student desk in silhouette, with an apple on top. Next to the desk is text that reads, “150,000 more elementary students are meeting or beating the provincial standard in reading, writing and math in 2012-2013, compared to 2002-2003.”
- Graphic 5 – This graphic shows a black graduation cap. To the right of the cap the text reads, “83% of high school students are graduating from high school.”

Updated: April 7, 2014

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Government



Kathleen Wynne

Premier of Ontario

“We are committed to delivering the exceptional services that the people of Ontario expect and deserve. We will continue to work to raise the bar, so that our province can flourish and prosper for generations to come.”

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Progress Report 2014: health care



The Ontario government has made significant progress in health care since 2003, strengthening and transforming key services. Ontario's 2014 health care progress report highlights achievements that are helping people across the province, such as:

- improvements in wait times
- delivering more vaccines for more people
- increasing access to family doctors

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[Progress Report 2014: education](#)

[More seniors to benefit from physiotherapy and exercise](#)

[Health and wellness infrastructure projects](#)



Newborn Screening Ontario screens all newborns for 29 inherited, treatable diseases, amounting to over **145,000** screens annually.



Publicly funded vaccines will save each family up to



\$1,042 per child*.

* child between 0 and 11 years of age only

About 2.1 million more

Ontarians now have access to a family doctor, compared to 2003.



Ontario opened **two** new Midwife-Led Birth Centres in 2014. Each centre will provide services for up to **450** births per year.

[text version](#)

Over the past decade, Ontario has worked to change the way it provides health care, moving the system from laggard to leader. In 2003, widespread doctor and nurse shortages and skyrocketing wait times meant many in Ontario were not getting the care they deserve. Soaring drug costs limited investments in other important areas.

As a province, we were not receiving value proportionate to what we were spending on health care, even as those costs were increasing rapidly.

An aging population added urgency to an already dire situation. These structural, fiscal and demographic realities were a challenge, but they were also an opportunity. We went to work transforming health care in Ontario by putting the patient first, giving people more options and better

access to timely, quality care, and we did this while delivering better value for our health dollars.

While much has been accomplished, we still have more work to do.

We will continue to transform health care because we want every person in Ontario to be at their best. Our health is a key determinant of our quality of life. When we're healthy, we can spend more time with loved ones, participate in our community, start a business or go back to school.

Providing the best care for people and their families is helping Ontario build strong, healthy communities, a vibrant economy and a bright future for our children and grandchildren.

Over the past decade, 23 new hospitals have been built or are underway. When it comes to surgical wait times for key services, Ontario is now the best in Canada. According to the Ontario Medical Association, over two million more Ontarians have a family doctor today than ten years ago. More than three million Ontarians now receive interdisciplinary care from a Family Health Team.

There are over 20,000 more nurses at work across the province than in 2003, caring for patients in a wider range of settings from community care access centres to long-term care homes. Our 2010 reforms to the prescription drug system have reduced the cost of generic drugs for patients, and are saving the province \$500 million annually to fund the purchase of new drugs.

We've also made significant progress in cleaning up our lakes and the air we breathe to create a healthier environment for generations to come. Significantly, we improved people's health and expanded their health care options without breaking the bank. For the first time since 1995/96-1996/97, annual increases to Ontario's health care budget are below 3 per cent.

Health care transformation aims to make our universal public health care system sustainable, so it will be there to help our parents age with dignity and comfort and to support our children and our grandchildren as they reach for their potential and live happier, longer lives.

We're also doing for future generations what previous generations have done for us — protecting and enhancing the cherished Canadian value that is universal health care.

We are on track to reach our goal for Ontario to be the healthiest place in North America to grow up and grow old. The three priorities of our Action Plan for Health Care outline the next steps Ontario is taking to build a quality system that provides better care to patients and delivers better value for our health dollars.

Health care transformation

Here are some of the ways that we're transforming health care:

- shifting care into the community by expanding access to home care for 76,000 more seniors in the past two years
- providing funding to reduce wait times for in-home nursing services and personal support services for complex clients
- enhancing access to publicly funded physiotherapy, exercise and fall prevention services for more than 200,000 additional seniors and eligible patients
- creating 54 new community Health Links in just one year, covering more than half the province. They are providing coordinated care for seniors and patients with multiple, complex health issues by connecting all health providers in their circle of care
- transitioning Ontario's hospitals and Community Care Access Centres away from global budgets to a model where funding follows the patient, based on how many patients receive care, the services they receive, the quality of those services, and the specific needs of the local population
- moving forward with non-profit community-based Specialty Clinics to provide OHIP-insured services, starting with cataract and colonoscopy procedures. An application process for cataract community-based specialty clinics was launched in February 2014 and is underway
- expanding the community role for paramedics to help patients get the care they need in their communities while reducing the need for emergency room visits and hospital admissions
- enabling pharmacists to administer the flu shot and a number of other services including:
 - prescribing specified drugs for smoking cessation

adapting and renewing existing prescriptions

- administering specific substances by injection or inhalation to a patient to show them how to do it themselves
- piercing a patient's skin with a lancet-type device to educate and support the patient with chronic disease monitoring
- enabling registered nurses and registered practical nurses to dispense drugs in certain circumstances
- increasing the focus on preventative measures such as air and water pollution, smoking cessation, early detection, and dietary-related diseases

Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care

Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care, released in January 2012, has three priorities:

1. keeping Ontario healthy
2. faster access and a stronger link to family health care
3. right care, right time, right place

We have made great progress over the past two years in all three priority areas of the Action Plan.

Keeping Ontario healthy

With innovative programs that give people the tools, support and resources to stay healthy, we're preventing diseases that have the greatest cost to people and our health care system. Ontarians' well-being and quality of life is improving at every stage.

Healthy kids

We launched the Healthy Kids Strategy in response to the Healthy Kids Panel's recommendations on how to encourage healthy weights among kids. Under the strategy the government has:

- introduced the Making Healthier Choices Act that, if passed, would make Ontario the first province to require restaurants and other food services to post calories on menus
- announced breastfeeding support to mothers, including 24/7 access to lactation consultants through Telehealth Ontario and funding to support hospitals and community-based health care organizations that are seeking to attain Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) designation — the globally recognized standard for infant feeding and breastfeeding promotion — to give babies the healthiest start in life
- expanded Ontario's Student Nutrition Program to more than 200 new breakfast or morning meal programs over two years for about 33,000 more kids in higher-needs communities, including those in some First Nations communities. During the last school year, the program helped provide nutritious breakfasts, snacks and lunches to more than 695,000 school-age children across the province
- launched the Healthy Kids Community Challenge for up to 30 communities to develop and implement programs and activities that promote healthy habits

Between 2010 and 2013, the overall health of 47,000 children and youth from low-income families was improved with the provision of free dental care under Healthy Smiles Ontario. During the same period, the Children In Need of Treatment dental program provided care for 92,613 children and youth with urgent dental conditions.

As of April 1, 2014, we've expanded eligibility for Healthy Smiles Ontario to 70,000 more children and youth from low-income families.

Today, over 460,000 children and youth are eligible for dental treatment through the province's low-income dental programs. And beginning in 2015, all the programs will be integrated into one seamless process to make it easier for eligible children and youth to receive the dental care they need.

Smoke-free Ontario

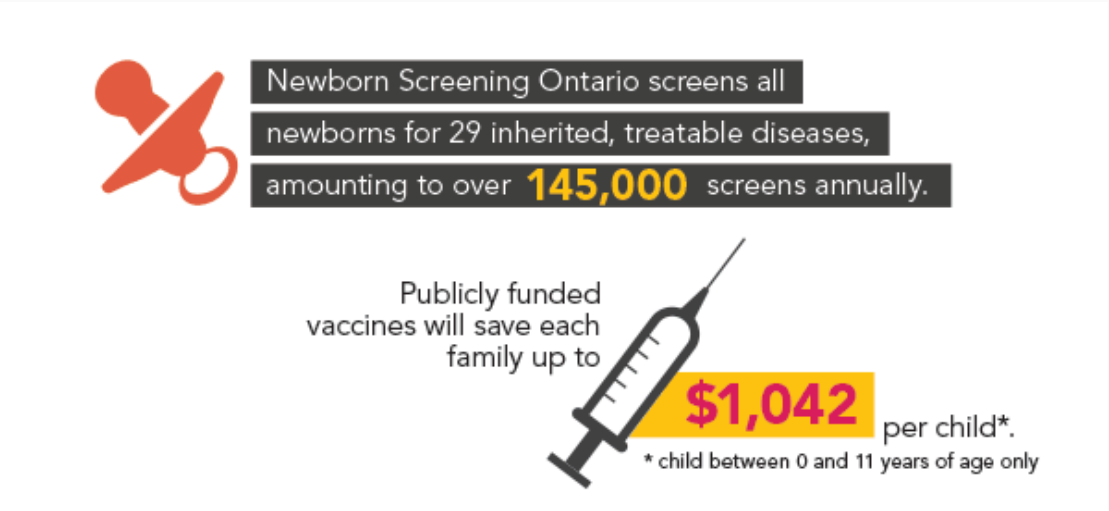
In November 2013, we introduced new legislation and proposed new regulations to strengthen the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. The proposed amendments, if passed, would increase penalties for selling tobacco to kids, ban flavoured tobacco, and broaden restrictions on smoking in public areas including bar and restaurant patios.

In 2012-13, we significantly increased the reach of services to help people of Ontario quit smoking, including:

- more than 15,000 smokers received no-cost nicotine replacement therapy and counselling through primary care and public health
- 8,400 Ontario Drug Benefit recipients received smoking cessation counselling from a community pharmacy
- 58,800 Ontario Drug Benefit recipients received smoking cessation prescription medications

Did you know?

Ontario's smoking rate has declined from 24.5 per cent in 2000 to 19 per cent in 2012.



Newborn screening and vaccines

In 2003, newborns in Ontario were screened for only two diseases. Today, Newborn Screening Ontario screens all newborns in Ontario for 29 inherited, treatable diseases, amounting to more than 145,000 screens annually. Newborn screening is important because when a disease is detected, treatment can begin immediately.

Did you know?
Newborn screening is free and recommended for all newborns in Ontario.

In May 2013, the province added Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID) to Ontario’s newborn screening program. SCID screening is expected to save the lives of up to 10 babies each year in Ontario.

In 2003, there were eight publicly funded vaccines in Ontario. Today there are 21, including chickenpox.

Each year, about 77,000 girls in Grade 8 are offered free vaccines to protect against the human papillomavirus (HPV), which can cause cervical cancer.

Did you know?
Ontario's vaccination program saves people more than \$2,500 over their lifetime.

The HPV vaccine saves families up to \$405 per child.

Flu shots

For the second year in a row, Ontario is making it easier than ever to get a free flu shot close to home — through family doctors, nurse led flu immunization clinics and participating pharmacies. Trained pharmacists can now give the flu shot to Ontarians age five and over. As of mid-March, 2014, pharmacists had delivered more than 765,000 flu shots this flu season through almost 2000 participating pharmacies.

Did you know?

You can find a health care provider offering the flu shot near you at Ontario.ca/flu.

Cancer screening, prevention and treatment

In the fall of 2013, Ontario passed new legislation to protect young people from skin cancer by restricting youth under 18 from using tanning beds and prohibiting the marketing of tanning services to

youth.

Did you know?

Ontario provided 325,092 more breast cancer screening exams in 2012/13 than in 2003/04.

We’re increasing early-detection cancer screenings because we know that screening saves the lives of people living with cancer. Early detection also means more treatment options, so people can maintain a better quality of life while treating the disease. Ontario continues to have one of the most comprehensive cancer screening programs in the country, integrating breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening into one coordinated program.

Ontario is helping more cancer patients by funding more new drugs to treat conditions like chronic lymphocytic leukemia, melanoma and metastatic breast cancer. Since 2003, 79 new cancer drugs and 119 indications have been funded under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program and the New Drug Funding Program (NDFP).

Did you know?

Surgical wait times for cancer surgeries are now 24 days shorter than in 2005.

Diabetes

Ontario is helping families affected by diabetes with the Ontario Diabetes Strategy, which includes initiatives designed to address the growing challenge of diabetes and improve health outcomes for people impacted by diabetes by:

- educating the public, especially those at high risk, about diabetes and ways to prevent it
- supporting patients in self management of their disease
- increasing health care providers’ use of evidence based clinical guidelines and improving access to proven care and treatment options
- improving local and regional coordination of diabetes services and care

Did you know?

100 per cent of Ontarians with diabetes who want to have a primary care provider are now attached to one.

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.

Cleaner air

Coal fired electricity generation contributes to air pollution, which has a negative impact on the health of Ontarians. We’re reducing air pollution to help people breathe easier while supporting healthier families and a healthier environment.

According to a 2005 study, the total annualized health, environmental and financial costs of coal were estimated to be \$4.4 billion.

In November, 2013, we introduced the Ending Coal for Cleaner Air Act. The legislation proposes to end the use of coal at Ontario’s remaining coal-fired electricity generating facilities and to prohibit new stand-alone coal-fired generating facilities.

Did you know?

Replacing coal-fired electricity generation in Ontario is the single largest climate change initiative being undertaken to date in North America and, when fully implemented, is the equivalent to taking up to

As a result of Ontario’s coal replacement strategy, in 2013 coal-fired electricity generation was down 91% from 2003 levels, with a corresponding reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired electricity generation. By the end of 2014, Ontario will be the first jurisdiction in North America to eliminate coal as a source of electricity.

To help keep our province healthy, Ontario has also introduced nearly 70 new or updated air pollution standards since 2005.

7 million cars off the road.

The latest Air Quality in Ontario report shows levels of air pollutants have dropped and air quality continued to improve over the last 10 years, especially for nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide (CO) and sulphur dioxide (SO2) — pollutants

emitted by vehicles and industry.

The province has also greatly reduced the use of harmful cosmetic pesticides, with the cosmetic pesticides ban celebrating its five year anniversary this year. We are finding the concentrations of three pesticides commonly used in lawn care products have decreased by about 70 percent in urban stream water since the ban. And by maintaining the Drive Clean program to ensure repairs are made to older, polluting vehicles, Ontario continues to reduce smog emissions from these cars and trucks and by one third.

Did you know?

Ontario's cosmetic pesticides ban is one of the strongest in the world, with more than 100 pesticides banned.

Cleaner water

Did you know Ontario's drinking water is among the best protected in the world?

The latest Chief Drinking Water Inspector's annual report shows that over 99% of all municipal drinking water quality tests meet provincial standards.

Ontario has also taken steps to protect our drinking water. The Great Lakes Strategy and the proposed Great Lakes Protection Act set out the roadmap to tackle issues facing the lakes to ensure they are protected for generations to come.

We supported more than 150 community-based projects under the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund since 2012 to protect habitat and species, clean up beaches and shorelines, reduce invasive species, and restore wetlands.

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan is working. Ontario's actions have reduced phosphorus levels by almost 40 per cent and have helped restore the cold water fishery.

Did you know?

Ontario was named the greenest province in Canada in the 2012 Green Provincial Report Card by Corporate Knights. Ontario was recognized for its efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, phasing out coal-fired electricity generation and introducing the Great Lakes Protection Act.

Faster access and a stronger link to family health care

Family or primary health care providers are the first line of defence in helping to keep the people of Ontario healthy. That's why it's essential that everyone — regardless of where they live in the province — has access to family health care when and where they need it.



About 2.1 million more

Ontarians now have access to a family doctor, compared to 2003.

More doctors

A decade ago, there was a serious doctor shortage in Ontario. That's why we introduced a number of initiatives to increase physician supply, improve retention and enhance the distribution of physicians across the province.

We've since stabilized the province's physician supply by adding 4,910 more doctors. Today, more than 94 per cent of Ontarians have a family doctor. According to the Ontario Medical Association, over

2.1 million more Ontarians have access to a family doctor compared to 2003.

In 2005, Ontario opened the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), with main campuses in Thunder Bay and Sudbury and research sites across Northern Ontario. NOSM now operates its undergraduate program at full capacity and has graduated 276 new doctors since 2009.

NOSM is still developing its postgraduate (PG) programs. As of 2013/14, NOSM had a total of 143 PG residents in all levels of training, and this is anticipated to grow to nearly 200 by the time the program reaches maturity in 2017/18. Since 2008, 70 per cent of physicians who have graduated from NOSM's postgraduate residency programs are practicing in Northern Ontario.

Since 2007, Ontario has opened four new medical education campuses, in the Waterloo Region, St. Catharines, Windsor and Mississauga.

The province also created the HealthForceOntario Northern and Rural Recruitment and Retention Initiative to help attract more physicians to rural and northern communities. Since the program began in 2010, we approved funding for 374 of these grants to bring more doctors to the communities where they are needed.

More nurses

Today there are over 20,500 more nurses working than in 2003, including more than 4,000 new nurses in 2013 than the year before. We have increased the percentage of nurses working full-time by 30 per cent.

Did you know?

Telehealth Ontario is there for you. To speak with a nurse 24/7, call 1 866 797 0000. Now lactation experts are available to provide 24/7 support over the phone to nursing mothers.

We also made Ontario one of the few jurisdictions in the world to create a full-time job opportunity for new nurse graduates through our Nursing Graduate Guarantee Initiative. More than 16,000 new nursing graduates have benefited from a full-time job opportunity through this program.

Ontario is helping to keep experienced nurses on the job longer. Since its inception, the Late Career Nurse Initiative has supported more than 19,500 experienced nurses find work in less physically demanding, alternate roles.

We have also created new nursing roles to support nursing recruitment and retention by providing new opportunities for career enhancement and new skills development.

Family health teams

Since they were created in 2005, Ontario's Family Health Teams are providing health care services to more than 3 million Ontarians, including 804,104 previously unattached patients.

Through Family Health Teams, there are now 2,792 doctors working with 2,347 interdisciplinary health professionals, such as Nurse Practitioners, social workers and pharmacists, in 206 communities across Ontario. That includes 42 new family health teams in northern communities. Family Health Teams take an interdisciplinary approach so they can provide better patient care to more people.

Did you know?

Today more than 10 million people are enrolled with primary care providers who practice in a group setting like a Family Health Group, Family Health Team or Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic.

Nurse practitioner led clinics

Did you know?

Ontario was the first Canadian province to introduce nurse practitioner led clinics in our communities.

Nurses are highly trained, highly skilled health care professionals. We're giving them more authority and utilizing their expertise to expand primary care to more people. There are now 25 nurse practitioner-led clinics serving 27 communities across the province, providing care to more than 43,000 patients, many of whom did not have access to a primary care provider.

Nurse practitioners in long-term care homes

Ontario is increasing the number of Nurse Practitioners in long-term care homes to strengthen the quality of care received by residents. Over the next three years, Ontario will increase the number of government- funded Nurse Practitioner positions in long-term care homes from 18 to up to 93.

Community Health Links

Patients with multiple, complex health issues have the greatest health care needs. That means finding new ways to provide better care for these high-need patients will reduce the strain on the entire health care system.

In December 2012, we introduced community Health Links to coordinate care for seniors and patients with multiple, complex health issues. Today, Ontario has 54 Health Links covering more than half the province — with more being planned to extend their reach to even more Ontarians.

Health Links encourage greater collaboration among local health care providers, including family care providers, specialists, hospitals, long-term care, home care and other community supports. Improved coordination and information-sharing allows patients to receive faster care, spend less time waiting for services and get care from a team of health care providers at all levels of the health care system.

Health Links ensure patients with complex conditions:

- no longer need to answer the same questions from different providers
- have support to ensure they are taking the right medications appropriately
- have a care provider they can call, eliminating unnecessary visits
- have an individualized comprehensive plan, developed with the patient and his/her care providers who will ensure the plan is being followed

Over time, Health Links are expected to result in improvements such as:

- reduced unnecessary hospital admissions and re-admissions within 30 days of discharge
- reduced avoidable emergency department visits for patients with conditions best managed elsewhere
- same day/next day access to primary care
- reduced time from a primary care referral to specialist consultation for complex patients
- reduced time from referral to first home care visit
- reduced alternate level of care days in hospital
- an enhanced experience with the health care system for patients with the greatest health care needs

Did you know?

The top five per cent of the most complex patients account for two-thirds of health care costs. By improving their care through Health Links, significant health care savings can be re-invested elsewhere in the system.

Right care, right time, right place

Patients receive the highest quality health care when it is timely and delivered as close to home as possible. This is essential to improving the patient experience, their satisfaction and their health outcomes, and to ensuring our health care system can contribute to Ontario's thriving communities and vibrant economy. It is also critically important for the overall sustainability of the province's health system.

Community and home care services and seniors

Our government has made significant new investments in the home and community care sector — because that's where people want to receive care, and it can be delivered at a lower cost than in hospitals or long-term care.

From 2003/04 to 2012/13, funding to the community sector increased from \$2.3 billion to \$4.3 billion. To build on this progress, in the 2012 Budget, the government pledged to increase community services funding by 4% over the next three years. Last year, we allocated \$260 million in new funding — by far our biggest new investment — to the home and community sector.

These investments are being used to enhance care in the community to:

- expand home care for 76,000 more seniors over the past two years alone
- help seniors and others receive services closer to home
- reduce ER/ALC and avoidable hospital readmissions
- reduce wait times for in-home nursing services and personal support services for complex clients; and
- expand access to mental health and addictions services

We have also expanded physician house calls for house-bound seniors, benefitting nearly 100,000 people across Ontario.

Seniors strategy

Dr. Samir Sinha’s report — *Living Longer, Living Well* — recommended investments in home and community care to provide greater access to care where seniors want it most — at home.

So far, we have implemented, or are in the process of implementing, two-thirds of the 134 health-related recommendations of Dr. Sinha’s report, including:

- expanded access to publicly funded physiotherapy, exercise and fall prevention services for more than 200,000 additional seniors and eligible patients
- an \$8 million investment to help seniors with complex health conditions recover from illness or injury and live safely at home
- working to make it possible for seniors who need help living independently to receive personal support services through select community support agencies
- 250 more short-stay beds in long-term care homes to provide care to people who need time to recover strength, endurance and functioning following treatment in a hospital or from the community
- investments in the training of approximately 47,000 care providers to adapt to the changing needs of the most frail and vulnerable adults in long-term care, particularly those with challenging behaviours

We are also focused on other initiatives to help seniors. For instance, the Healthy Homes Renovations Tax Credits are intended to help seniors stay in their homes longer. Based on 2012 tax returns, about 25,000 people were able to claim the credits. The average amount of the tax credit was \$560.

Did you know?

226,000 more Ontarians received care in their homes through CCACs in 2012–13 than in 2003–04.

Additionally, we have provided \$1.5 million to the Alzheimer Society of Ontario’s wandering prevention program, to help protect the province’s most vulnerable seniors. The program has expanded to include Italian, Spanish and Portuguese to help reach people whose first language may not be English or French.

Mandatory sprinklers

We have moved to make automatic sprinklers mandatory in residences for seniors, people with disabilities and vulnerable citizens to improve safety. We are proud that Ontario has become the first province to make sprinklers mandatory in existing licensed retirement homes and care and treatment occupancies for our most vulnerable citizens.

New requirements that came into force on January 1, 2014 include:

- automatic sprinklers for all existing care homes with more than four residents and all licensed retirement homes
- additional fire safety measures such as self-closing doors
- enhanced fire inspections and staff training
- annual inspection and validation of fire safety plans by observing a fire drill by local fire services

The amendments will be phased in over the next five to eleven years and are based on recommendations made by a Technical Advisory Committee led by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Reducing wait times

Since 2003/04, Ontario has invested about \$1.7 billion to fund over three million more medical procedures. The Wait Times Strategy has helped reduce bottlenecks, measure progress and publicly report results.

Though historically a valued partner in improving health care in Ontario, the federal government recently withdrew funding for Ontario's Wait Times Strategy. We are disappointed, but determined to keep reducing wait times and protect the progress we've made over the last ten years.

Ontario continues to invest resources to improve performance at hospital emergency rooms to support timely discharge to appropriate care in the community. In January of 2014, 89 per cent of patients with minor or uncomplicated conditions were treated and discharged within the four hour target.

Ontario has reduced wait times for the following procedures since 2004:

- cancer surgery by 24 days
- cataract surgery by 151 days
- hip replacement by 150 days
- knee replacement by 229 days
- MRI scans by 49 days
- CT scans by 44 days

Did you know?

Ontario now has the shortest wait times in Canada. The days of waiting saved since 2005 would cover more than 6,000 lifetimes.

Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy

In 2011, Ontario launched the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, which is focusing on children and youth in the first three years. The Strategy will help 50,000 more kids and their families access the supports they need, when and where they need it.

As part of the Strategy, the province has hired more than 770 new mental health workers in schools and communities. These workers provide timely and high quality services that have already helped 35,000 kids and their families. The new workers include:

- 260 new workers in community child and youth mental health agencies to provide kids access to services closer to home
- 144 nurses working with district school boards and local schools to support the early identification and treatment of students with potential mental health and/or addiction issues
- 72 Mental Health Leaders in school boards to provide leadership and coordination in effective school mental health
- 21 new workers in the court system to keep youth out of the justice system and refer them instead to community-based services
- 19 new full-time Nurse Practitioner positions for pediatric and adult eating disorders treatment services
- 175 additional new mental health workers in schools, who will provide kids support to address their mental health needs
- more than 80 new Aboriginal mental health and addictions workers in high-needs communities

As part of the Strategy, Ontario launched Moving on Mental Health, an action plan aimed at transforming the experience of children and youth with mental health problems and their families. This plan will ensure that, regardless of where they live in the province, families will know what mental health services are available to them and how to access the services that will meet their needs.

The Moving on Mental Health plan is introducing a lead agency model in communities across the province. Lead agencies will establish and maintain access to core, community-based child and youth mental health services. They will ensure more collaboration across education and health care systems, which will make the process more transparent so children and youth know what to expect.

In addition, a new Tele-Mental Health Service is expanding access to specialized mental health consults to children and youth in rural, remote and underserved communities, providing more than 800

additional psychiatric consults this year for a total of 2,040 this year. The province also provided education and training for professionals working in community based agencies.

Helping Ontarians living with mental and physical illnesses

The Ontario government has joined with mental health leaders and other community partners to create the Medical Psychiatry Alliance. The province, the Alliance, which includes the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, the Hospital for Sick Children, Trillium Health Partners, and the University of Toronto and a private donor will each contribute \$20 million for a combined total investment of \$60 million over six years.

This new initiative will help people who are at risk of both physical and mental illnesses — or currently living with these illnesses — get the care and treatment they need.



Midwife-led birth centres

Ontario opened two new midwife-led birth centres in 2014, one in Toronto and one in Ottawa, to give pregnant women more choice in where to give birth. The Birth Centres offer women a safe, home-like setting where they are attended by midwives and surrounded by their family. Both the Ottawa Birth and Wellness Centre and the Toronto Birth Centre will provide services for up to 450 births per year. This will free up hospital beds so acute care facilities can focus on supporting more high-risk births. The centres will also provide complementary services such as prenatal classes, birth and early postpartum care, breastfeeding support and nutritional counselling.

Hospitals

Twenty-three new hospitals have been built or are underway. Since 2005, Ontario has invested more than \$14 billion in health care infrastructure. In 2013-14, provincial infrastructure investments in our hospitals have supported nearly 26,000 jobs.

Completed hospitals include:

1. William Osler Health Centre (Brampton)
2. Royal Ottawa Health Care Group
3. West Parry Sound Health Centre
4. Peterborough Regional Health Centre
5. Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
6. Mattawa General Hospital
7. Runnymede Healthcare Centre (Toronto)
8. Bloorview Kids Rehab (formerly Bloorview MacMillan Children's Centre, Toronto)
9. Health Sciences North
10. Pembroke Regional Hospital
11. Sioux Lookout Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre
12. Sault Area Hospital
13. North Bay Regional Health Centre
14. Woodstock General Hospital
15. Sarnia, Bluewater Health
16. Niagara Health System
17. Bridgepoint Health (Toronto)
18. St. Joseph's Healthcare (Hamilton)

Under construction:

19. St. Joseph's Health Care (London)
20. Cornwall Community Hospital

- 21. Halton Healthcare Services
- 22. Humber River Regional Hospital (Toronto)
- 23. Women's College Hospital (Toronto)

[Construction is moving forward or is complete](#) for more than 100 major projects at hospitals across the province.

[Learn about our progress on education](#)

Graphic 1 - This graphic shows a large, red baby pacifier. To the right of the pacifier there is text that reads: “Newborn Screening Ontario screens all newborns for 29 inherited, treatable diseases, amounting to over 145,000 screens annually.”

Graphic 2 – This graphic shows a large needle. To the right of the needle there is text that reads: “Publicly funded vaccines will save each family up to \$1,042 per child if paid out of pocket.” Directly beneath this text is an asterisk and more text that reads “child between zero and 11 years of age only.”

Graphic 3 – This graphic shows a large stethoscope. To the right of the stethoscope there is text that reads: “Approximately 2.1 million more Ontarians now have access to a family doctor, compared to 2003.”

Graphic 4 – This graphic shows a pregnant woman in silhouette, standing with her hands on her back. To the right of her is text that reads: “Ontario opened two new Midwife-Led Birth Centres in 2014. Each centre will provide services for up to 450 births per year.”

Updated: April 7, 2014

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Tags

Government

Kathleen Wynne

Premier of Ontario

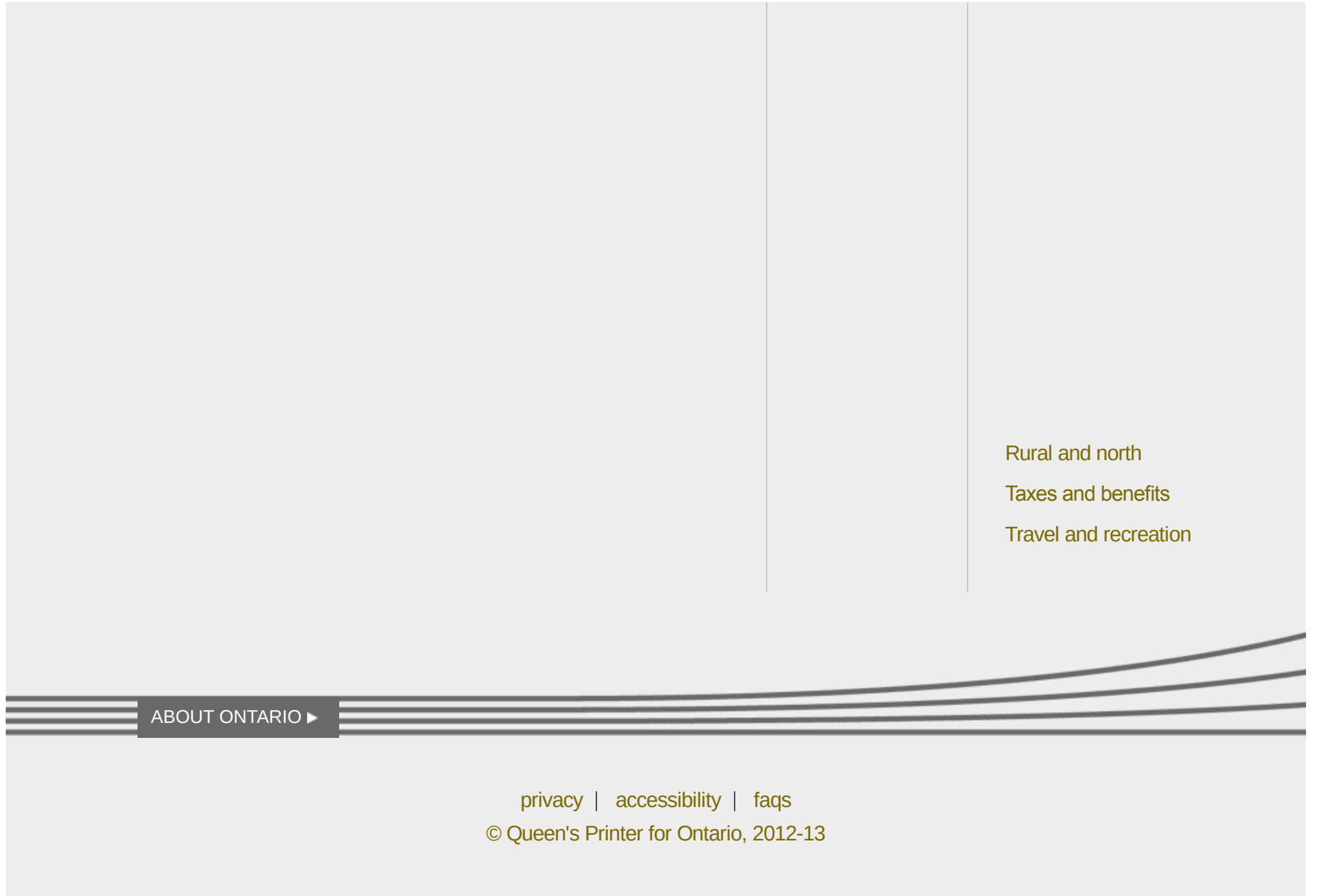
“We are committed to delivering the exceptional services that the people of Ontario expect and deserve. We will continue to work to raise the bar, so that our province can flourish and prosper for generations to come.”

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Progress Report 2014: pocketbook initiatives



The Ontario government has taken significant steps to help people in their everyday lives and lower the cost of living — especially for middle-income families. Ontario's 2014 Pocketbook Progress Report highlights achievements that are helping to protect people across the province, such as:

- moving forward with a made-in-Ontario plan to improve retirement security
- strengthening consumer protection measures
- increasing the minimum wage

Recommended for you

- [Progress Report 2014: education](#)
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- [Progress Report 2014: transit and infrastructure](#)



The average two-income family is paying
\$360 less in income tax this year compared to 2009.



A 2013 Sales Tax Credit up to

\$278
per person.



ENERGY AND PROPERTY TAX CREDIT
Up to **\$963** for eligible Ontarians and
up to **\$1,097** eligible seniors for 2013.



Clean Energy Benefit saves
a typical family
\$180
per year.



Land Transfer Tax Rebate up to
\$2,000 for
1st time home buyers



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY TAX CREDIT



UP TO **\$53.50** PER
CHILD IN 2013 AND
\$107 FOR A CHILD
WITH A DISABILITY.



ONTARIO CHILD BENEFIT UP TO
\$1,210 per year for every
eligible kid in 2013.

Graphic: The average two-income family is paying \$360 less in income tax this year compared to 2009. A 2013 Sales Tax Credit up to \$278 per person. Energy and Property Tax Credit up to \$963 for eligible Ontarians and up to \$1,097 eligible seniors for 2013. Clean Energy Benefit saves a typical family \$180 per year. Land Transfer Tax Rebate up to \$2,000 for 1st time home buyers. Ontario Child Benefit up to \$1,210 per year for every eligible kid in 2013. Children's Activity Tax Credit up to \$53.50 per child in 2013 and up to \$107 for a child with a disability.

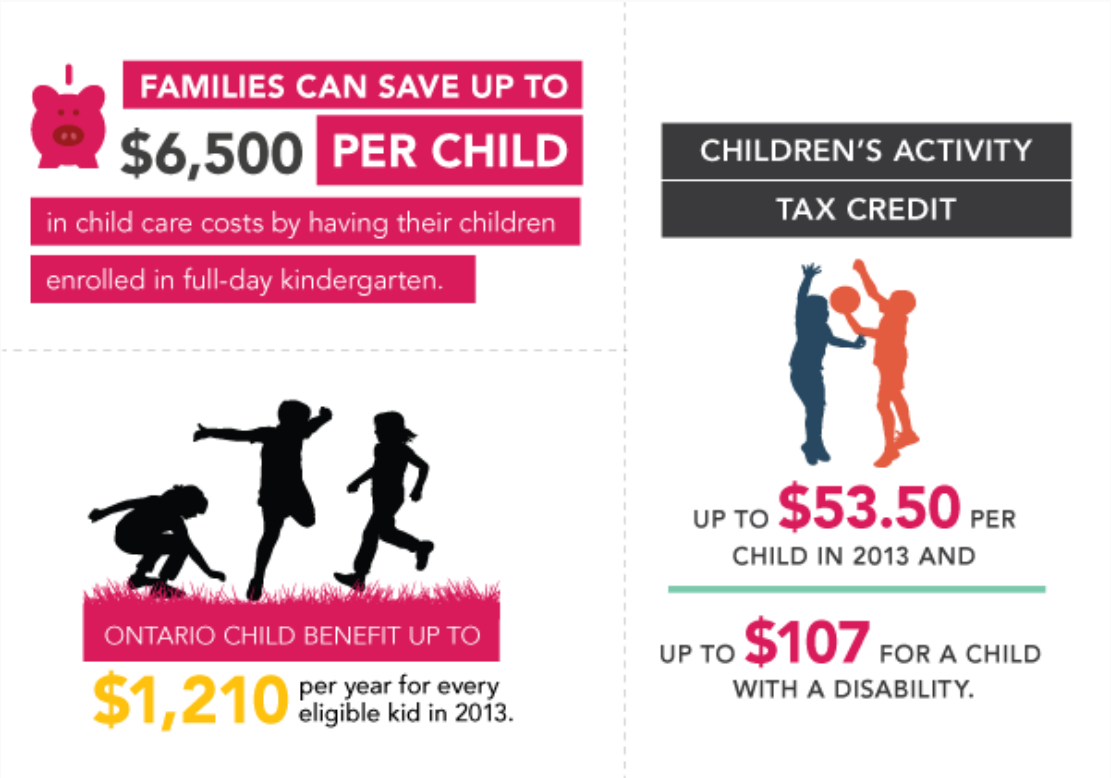
Pocketbook initiatives

Ontario families are busy. Whether working hard to make ends meet, shuttling children from school to Little League, caring for aging parents or launching grown children, families face more pressures than ever as they try to balance the household budget and save for the future. Individuals and families who

are financially squeezed are the first victims of these pressures, but we all suffer when fellow Ontarians fall behind.

The government wants to build a thriving economy in every part of the province and help people to live happier, healthier and longer lives. We want people to feel optimistic about their own future and that of the province, not constrained by a lack of support or resources. That's why we've worked to alleviate people's everyday financial pressures and, through a variety of means, create conditions that relieve people's long-term concerns for an affordable retirement, a clean environment and good jobs for their children.

Our government will continue to make people's everyday lives better and more affordable — particularly for middle-income earners and their families. By ensuring fair wages, better accessibility to postsecondary education and by strengthening the social safety net, we're helping families. In this way, we strengthen communities and grow the economy.



Assistance for families

Our government is focused on investing in our people — this includes giving families a helping hand so parents can put their skills to work, and ensuring every child in Ontario has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Full-day kindergarten

Ontario's full-day kindergarten program is giving children the best possible start in school by preparing them for success in Grade 1 and beyond. It can also save families thousands of dollars a year in child care costs.

In 2013–14, more than 184,000 children are enrolled in full-day kindergarten at approximately 2,600 schools across Ontario. Once fully implemented in September 2014, full-day kindergarten will be available to about 260,000 four- and five-year-olds across Ontario. For every child enrolled in full-day kindergarten, families can save up to \$6,500 in child care costs.

Child care

Licensed spaces in child care centres have increased by approximately 107,400 over the past 10 years — there are now nearly 300,000 spaces in licensed child care centres in Ontario. To improve quality and capacity, we've increased funding for child care by 90 per cent since 2003.

Ontario also stepped in with an investment of \$63.5 million a year to permanently fill the funding gap left by the federal government, which at the time, preserved approximately 8,500 child care spaces and helped 1,000 child care workers keep their jobs. We've also made funding more responsive to local needs, so families have more options closer to home.

Ontario Child Benefit

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) pays monthly support to low- to- moderate- income families — whether they are working or not — to help them provide for their children. Eligible families are automatically qualified when they file their taxes, and receive monthly OCB payments along with federal payments.

In the 2013 Budget, we increased the OCB by \$110 so that eligible families now receive up to \$1,210 per year for each child, and we passed legislation to increase the OCB to \$1,310 starting July 2014.

Children’s Activity Tax Credit

The Children’s Activity Tax Credit helps parents with the cost of registering children in organized activities, such as sports, music and language lessons.

To keep up with the rising cost of children’s activities, we’ve indexed the credit to inflation. For 2014, the credit provides up to \$54.10 per child and up to \$108.20 for a child with a disability.

Adoption subsidies

Ontario provides financial subsidies to eligible parents who adopt or take legal custody of Crown wards 10 years of age and over, or siblings. The subsidies are available through Children Aid Societies to families with a net annual income of up to \$85,000. Eligible families receive subsidies in the amount of \$950 per month per child or \$11,400 per year per child.

Family law reform

Since 2011, Ontario has implemented significant reforms to strengthen the family justice system and to help make the system easier to use, less confrontational and more affordable. A new approach to settling family disputes is helping more Ontario families avoid the courtroom in favour of an early, affordable, out-of-court resolution.

The 2013 Budget allocated \$30 million over three years to improve the delivery of frontline client services through Family Law Service Centres and community and legal clinics. In the first year, 70 per cent of the new funding is being used to help more low-income families access legal advice, duty counsel and mediation services. For example, Legal Aid Ontario has used some of the funding to launch a [mediation pilot project in 14 communities around the province](#), expanding access to justice to low-income Ontarians.

Helping people pay for postsecondary education

Parents want to see their children grow up to be happy and successful in life. In today’s world, success depends on having a postsecondary education.

The government remains committed to making postsecondary education accessible based on students’ ability to learn, not their ability to pay. We don’t want parents to have to choose between saving for retirement and saving for their children’s education, and we can’t let bright young minds miss their chance at success just because they cannot afford tuition. We’re investing in the success of the province’s youth by continuing to support programs that help students access a world-class postsecondary education, pursue their passions and, through their successes, contribute to the 21st-century economy.

In 2003, deregulated tuition put the cost of postsecondary education out of reach for too many students and their families. We put a cap on tuition increases, and made sure college and university remain affordable by enhancing student financial assistance. Today, Ontario has one of the most generous student assistance programs in the country, with more than 370,000 students receiving financial aid in 2012–13 — more than half of the full-time student population.

We have also introduced a Student Access Guarantee to ensure that every qualified Ontario student in need has access to the resources they need to pay for their tuition, books and mandatory fees, through government and institutional aid programs.

30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant

The 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant is helping to make postsecondary education more affordable for

Ontario families, and putting more money in people’s pockets for essentials like textbooks or housing.

The grant helps postsecondary students from low- and middle-income families save up to \$1,730 on tuition in degree programs and \$790 for students in diploma or certificate programs. Many recipients of the 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant actually pay less tuition than students paid ten years ago, in inflation-adjusted dollars.

When it was launched two years ago, the 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant helped 207,000 students with the cost of their education. In 2012–13, the grant helped about 230,000 students. In 2013, Ontario expanded eligibility to students at OSAP-approved private institutions in Ontario, and students in the final year of five-year co-op programs. About 5,000 more students will benefit from extra support.

Fairer fees

In December 2013, the government established a fairer, more consistent approach to tuition billing at colleges and universities that will save students money and create a more flexible and transparent fee system.

Starting in the 2014–15 academic year:

- tuition fees for a fall term will not be due before the beginning of August
- students receiving financial aid will not have to pay tuition until their classes start
- all students will be able to pay tuition in per-term instalments without paying deferral fees or interest charges
- colleges and universities may continue to charge a deposit on tuition, but it will be capped and must be applied against the student’s tuition fee balance

Ontario Distance Grant

Ontario continues to support students from remote and rural Ontario areas with their commuting and travel costs with the Ontario Distance Grant.

In 2012–13, Ontario provided \$5 million in distance grants to support the educational aspirations of 13,000 students from remote and rural areas.

Beginning in 2013–14, OSAP-eligible Francophone students who attend full-time studies in French are eligible for Ontario Distance Grants, even if there is another institution closer to home. This expanded eligibility criteria is expected to benefit an additional 1,000 Francophone students this year.

More spaces

Since 2002–03, there are 161,000 more spaces at Ontario’s colleges and universities. Not only has this increased postsecondary enrolment by 40 per cent and helped Ontario achieve the highest postsecondary attainment rate in the OECD, it has also helped students and their families save money by reducing the need to relocate to study in a program of their choice.

Ontario Student Opportunity Grant

The Ontario Student Opportunity Grant limits a student’s annual repayable OSAP debt to \$7,300 for a two-term academic year, and \$10,950 for a three-term academic year. No matter how much a student borrows, Ontario limits the amount a student needs to repay each year after his or studies have ended.

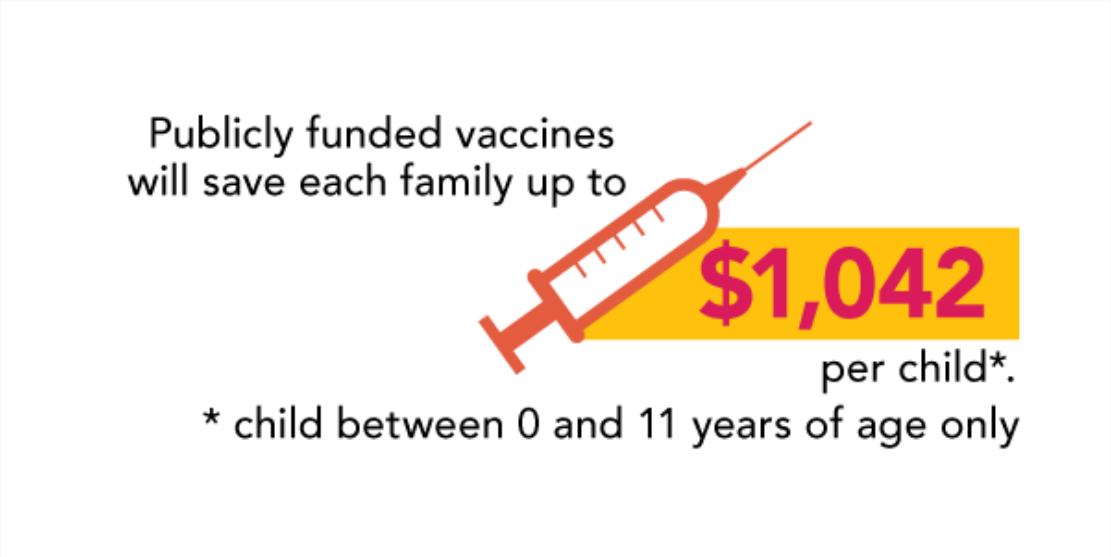
Youth leaving care

The Living and Learning Grant helps students enrolled in full-time postsecondary studies, aged 21 to 24, who were previously eligible for the Continued Care and Support for Youth allowance (or Extended Care and Maintenance allowance) from their Children’s Aid Society. This grant provides \$500 per month of study to help cover living costs.

Starting in September 2013, the government partnered with all Ontario universities and a third of the province’s colleges to cover 100 per cent of tuition fees, up to a maximum of \$6,000 per year, for former Crown wards and youth who are in and leaving care.

Extending interest-free grace periods/pre-study contributions

As of September 2012, student loan borrowers who choose to work or volunteer for not-for-profit organizations do not have to start paying off their loans until one full year after their studies. And as of fall 2013, borrowers who start a new business in Ontario do not have to start paying off their loans for one full year. The same grace period will also apply to students who volunteer for the Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games.



Health care

Excellent health care is one of our government's fundamental responsibilities. Our health determines our quality of life. When we're healthy, we can spend more time with loved ones, participate in our community, start a business or go back to school. We will continue to help families by expanding care and by lowering the cost of staying healthy.

Ontario is helping families manage their health care costs by:

- reducing generic drug prices, providing private drug plans and cash-paying recipients up to \$265 million in savings in 2013
- expanding access to home care for 76,000 more seniors over the past two years
- enhancing access to publicly funded physiotherapy, exercise and fall-prevention services for more than 200,000 additional seniors and eligible patients
- delivering about 765,000 free flu shots through trained pharmacists during the 2013/14 flu season
- expanding eligibility for free dental care to up to 70,000 more children and youth in low-income families beginning in April 2014, bringing savings of up to \$400 annually in dental costs to more than 460,000 families eligible for dental treatment through the province's low-income dental programs
- increasing funding for Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) by more than \$1 billion — and now our CCACs are helping more than 650,000 people find the care they need
- funding 21 different (routine and non-routine) vaccines that protect us against 16 diseases — up from eight routine vaccines in 2003. The total cost savings for an individual in Ontario, who starts his/her immunization in infancy and receives all eligible routine vaccines, is about \$2,545 per person, if paid out of pocket
- helping people pay for treatments to quit smoking. In 2012–13, we expanded support for smoking cessation and more than 15,000 smokers received no-cost nicotine replacement therapy and counselling through primary care and public health; 8,400 Ontario Drug Benefit recipients received smoking cessation counselling from a community pharmacy; and, 58,800 Ontario Drug Benefit recipients received smoking cessation prescription medications
- assisting Ontarians who need to purchase devices and supplies through the Assistive Devices Program (ADP), including mobility devices, home oxygen and hearing aids. In 2013/14 alone, ADP expenditures amounted to \$437.9 million. Without ADP funding, people with long-term physical disabilities would have to pay 100 per cent of the cost of devices and supplies or forgo the independence that the equipment gives them
- becoming the first province to fully fund insulin pumps for children and youth with type 1 diabetes. This is saving families up to \$18,300 per child in the first 5 years. To date, Ontario has provided approximately 13,700 Ontarians with funding for the purchase of insulin pumps

Seniors

Older Ontarians have helped to build our province, and their contributions continue to be wide-ranging and significant. They are volunteers, mentors, leaders, caregivers and skilled workers who offer their experience to their families, workplaces and communities.

That's why our government is working to provide seniors and their families with the programs and services they need to remain healthy, safe, independent and active, and to reduce the financial and social burden on families caring for both aging parents and young children.

Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit

The government created the Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit to help seniors stay in their homes longer. Seniors can claim up to \$1,500 each year for home renovations that increase their safety and mobility. Individuals who live with a senior family member can also claim this credit.

Seniors Homeowners' Property Tax Grant

The grant provides up to \$500 a year to help low- to moderate-income senior homeowners with the cost of property taxes.

Helping seniors get the care they need at home

Ontario is ensuring seniors have better access to home care and community supports so they can live independently in their homes longer, saving seniors and their families money on long-term care homes and day-to-day trips to the doctor. The 2013 Budget provided a \$260-million increase in supports to programs across the province that help 637,000 seniors and their families get the right care, in the right place, at the right time. \$185 million of this new funding has gone specifically to home care to help an additional 46,000 seniors benefit from home care while reducing wait times for home care patients with complex needs who require nursing and personal support worker services.

Improved driver's licence renewal for seniors

Starting April 21, 2014, drivers 80 -years -old and over will participate in a shorter, simpler licence renewal program.

Seniors Community Grant Program

This new grant provides \$500 to \$10,000 to not-for-profit community groups for projects that encourage greater social inclusion, volunteerism and community engagement for seniors across the province.

New Canadians

Immigration is essential for Ontario to remain competitive in today's global economy. Every week, more than 1,900 newcomers arrive in Ontario to start a new life, and many of them are leaving their loved ones behind.

Our government is working to ensure immigrants to Ontario have the tools they need to succeed so they can build strong roots, raise healthy families and contribute to our province's economic success.

Newcomer settlement and integration

The Newcomer Settlement Program helps recent immigrants adapt and succeed in Ontario. The program is delivered by a province-wide network of community-based not-for-profit agencies that provide newcomers with information, guidance and support as they establish their new lives here.

Since 2003, the government has invested \$900 million in programs and services to help newcomers settle, get job-ready and licensed to work, including \$73 million in the Newcomer Settlement Program.

As part of that investment, Ontario is providing \$17.9 million over two years to 98 settlement agencies across Ontario to help more than 80,000 newcomers annually access settlement supports. This investment includes support for the development and implementation of a new Orientation to Ontario program.

The Ontario Bridge Training Program

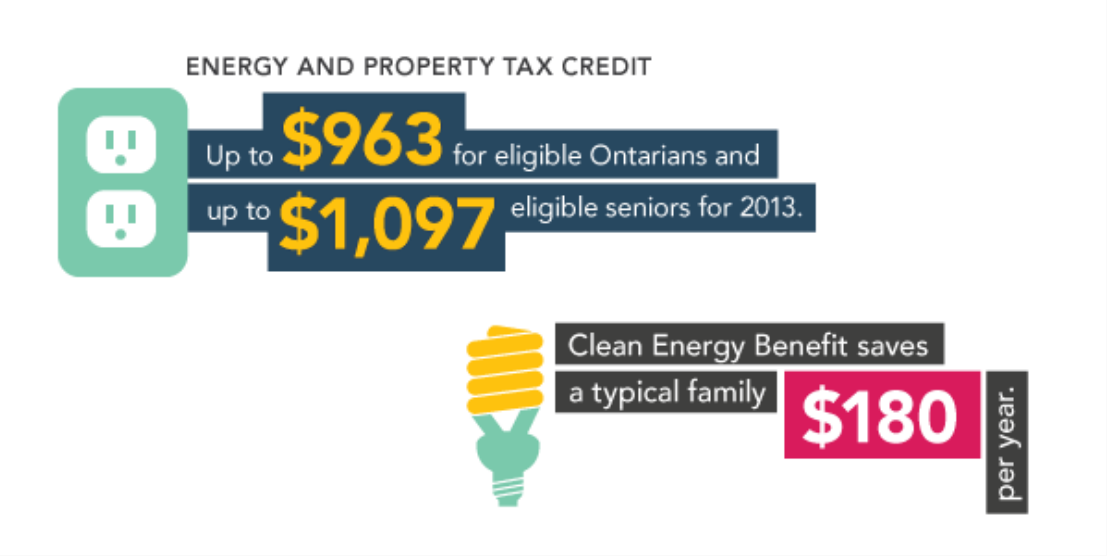
Since 2003, the government has invested more than \$240 million in more than 300 Bridge Training programs that have helped nearly 50,000 highly skilled immigrants get the training they need to find a job in their fields of expertise.

Over the next three years, Ontario will increase its investment in the Ontario Bridge Training Program to more than \$63 million, which will help an estimated 15,000 additional newcomers. The federal government will contribute \$16.6 million over the same period.

Language training

We’ve invested approximately \$578 million in adult non-credit language training since 2003. This year, nearly 120,000 immigrants will enrol in adult ESL / FSL training to help them improve their English and French skills. We have also invested nearly \$10 million in 81 projects that have provided job-specific language training to nearly 8,000 immigrants.

We have expanded our English as a Second Language (ESL) program to immigrants whose first language is French, increasing opportunities for people to access tuition-free language training to support their social integration and success in the job market.



Energy

In 2003, the province had an aging electronic system in which coal accounted for 25 per cent of Ontario’s generation, contributed to higher emissions and costly brownouts.

Today, Ontarians are benefitting from a modern, clean and reliable energy system. The province has fulfilled its commitment to eliminate coal-fired electricity generation, and Ontario is coal free. Doing the necessary work to build a cleaner, more efficient electricity system and ensure the lights stay on has come with additional costs. We’re helping Ontario families manage rising costs as we continue the transition to cleaner power.

Ontario Clean Energy Benefit

The Ontario Clean Energy Benefit provides a 10 per cent rebate on applicable electricity charges and taxes for eligible residential consumers, small businesses and farms on the first 3,000 kilowatt hours of consumption.

Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit

The province is helping low- to -moderate-income Ontarians by providing tax relief for the sales tax on energy, including electricity, and for property taxes through the Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit.

It provides up to \$973 for low-to moderate-income individuals and families and up to \$1,108 for eligible seniors for the 2014 benefit year.

Ontario’s Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

Ontario’s Low-Income Energy Assistance Program provides emergency financial assistance, targeted customer service rules and energy conservation programs to eligible low-income consumers.

Eligible consumers can receive up to \$600 of emergency financial assistance once a year in the form of grants applied directly to electricity and natural gas bills.

Northern Ontario Energy Credit

The Northern Ontario Energy Credit helps qualifying low- to -moderate income individuals and families living in Northern Ontario with energy costs by providing individuals -18 -years -old and older with a credit of up to \$141, and families, including single parents, with up to \$216 for the 2014 benefit year.

Consumer protections

Our government is helping Ontario consumers make informed choices, spend wisely and protect their hard-earned money. We are working to ensure a fair, safe and informed marketplace. This includes new legislation to help make all cell phone/wireless services agreements easier to understand and walk away from, providing more safeguards in door-to-door sales, ensuring debt-settlement services are fair and our plan to make auto insurance more affordable for all Ontarians.

[Consumer Protection Ontario](#)

Wireless Services Agreements Act

This new legislation came into effect April 1, 2014, and will help the 80 per cent of Ontario families who have cell phone/wireless services agreements.

It requires clearly written, easier-to-understand contracts with no hidden fees, customer consent before contracts are amended, as well as lower contract cancellation fees. Wireless customers are now in a better position to compare costs and services in the marketplace.

Stronger Protection for Ontario Consumers Act

This recently passed legislation will strengthen consumer protection and increase consumer rights for Ontario families across a wide range of common or everyday marketplace transactions, including door-to-door sales, debt settlement services and real estate sales.

We've taken further steps to save people money by making sure Ontarians know about their enhanced consumer protections and rights.

Bill 146, The Stronger Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act, 2014

Ontario introduced this legislation to take important steps to ensure that everyone gets the paycheck they have earned and provide more protection to the province's vulnerable workforce, while increasing fairness for both employees and businesses.

If passed, the Stronger Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act would protect vulnerable workers while creating a level playing field for companies that follow the rules by:

- eliminating the \$10,000 cap on the recovery of unpaid wages and increasing the period of recovery from six and 12 months to two years for employees. This would help keep more disputes out of the court system, saving both employees and businesses time and money
- making clients of temporary help agencies share liability with agencies for certain employment standards violations
- prohibiting employers from charging recruitment and other fees and seizing personal documents like passports by extending the application of the Employment Protection for Foreign Nationals Act (Live-in Caregivers and Others), 2009 to cover all foreign employees who come to Ontario under an immigration or temporary foreign employee program

Auto insurance

In 2013, the government established an auto insurance average rate reduction target of 15 per cent, to be achieved by August 2015, and introduced the [Auto Insurance Cost and Rate Reduction Strategy](#). We have already made progress toward an interim average reduction target of 8 per cent by August 2014. In fact, approved rates have dropped by 5.7 per cent on average between August 2013 and April 2014.

The government will continue to take new steps to make auto insurance more affordable, to fight fraud and abuse, and protect consumers.

In March 2014, the government introduced Bill 171 (Fighting Fraud and Reducing Automobile Insurance Rates Act, 2014), which would reduce costs and uncertainty in the auto insurance system and help accident victims settle disputed claims faster.

In April 2014, the government introduced legislation that would, if passed, regulate the towing and vehicle storage industries and help save over nine million drivers money when having their vehicle towed or stored.

Ontario is also proposing to include tow trucks in the province's existing Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration system to improve road safety through government monitoring and enforcement measures. The proposed changes and additional oversight would contribute to lower costs in Ontario's auto insurance system.

Online driver's licence renewal

In September 2013, Ontario became the first province in Canada to provide drivers with an online driver's licence renewal service. Now, eligible Ontario drivers can save time by renewing their licence at their convenience.

As of March 2014, more than 60,000 drivers have successfully renewed their licence online.



Other initiatives

Retirement security

Ontario is leading the way to develop a made-in-Ontario pension solution that will help people retire with better security.

More than 35 per cent of households are not saving enough to ensure a similar standard of living in retirement, and in 2012, 66 per cent of Ontario's workers did not belong to a workplace pension plan.

Ontario's Technical Advisory Group on Retirement Security, which is comprised of leading pension experts from the public, private and non-profit sectors and also includes representation from PEI and Manitoba, is currently looking at a range of options to enhance retirement savings so that Ontarians can afford the retirement they've worked so hard for.

Increased minimum wage

In 2003, Ontario's lowest earners had not received a raise in 9 years — minimum wage was stuck at \$6.85 an hour. Since then, we've increased minimum wage to \$10.25 an hour, and will increase it to \$11 an hour on June 1, 2014. That's an increase of 60 per cent since 2003.

For full-time workers on minimum wage, it's a raise of \$8,092.50 a year since 2003.

To help businesses plan for future increases and make sure minimum wage doesn't fall behind again, we've introduced legislation that would, if passed, tie annual increases in minimum wage to inflation.

Social assistance

Over the past 10 years, the government has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting families and individuals on social assistance. Social assistance rates have increased by 16 per cent for Ontario Works families and individuals with disabilities, and by 18.7 per cent for single people without children receiving Ontario Works benefits. We have modernized the program rules to help people enter the work force.

Changes announced last year include:

- raising the amount recipients can earn without reducing their assistance to \$200 a month. This will help clients to gain a foothold in the labour force, improve their incomes and move toward greater independence
- increasing support by 1 per cent for all Ontario Works recipients and individuals with disabilities receiving Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits. Single adults without children receiving Ontario Works benefits received an additional \$14 per month, for a total increase of \$20 a month, or about 3 per cent
- increasing the amount of assets Ontario Works clients are allowed to retain, such as bank savings or a car, so clients won't have to give up everything they own before they can get help

Affordable housing

Since 2003, Ontario has invested nearly \$3 billion towards affordable housing — that's the largest investment in the province's history.

Through this, we've supported:

- the creation of over 17,000 affordable rental housing units
- more than 263,000 repairs and improvements to social and affordable housing units
- provided rental and down payment assistance to more than 81,000 households in need

As part of our government's Poverty Reduction Strategy, we created the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy — the first of its kind in Ontario.

The Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program provides \$50 million in long-term annual funding, assisting more than 6,700 households.

Tackling homelessness

On January 1, 2013, Ontario launched the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, which provides funding for services that prevent, address and reduce homelessness across the province.

For 2013–14, the province invested \$246 million to assist individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those who are on social assistance and those with low incomes.

For 2014–15, the government's investment is \$251 million.

Protecting tenants

In June 2012, the government passed the Residential Tenancies Amendment Act (Rent Increase Guideline), which revised the Rent Increase Guideline formula to limit rent increases to no more than 2.5 per cent. This amendment helps struggling families cope by giving them certainty about their monthly rent.

The 2014 Rent Increase Guideline is 0.8 per cent, the second-lowest guideline in the history of rent regulation in Ontario.

Personal income tax bracket rate

Ontario's lowest personal income tax bracket rate was reduced from 6.05 per cent to 5.05 per cent on January 1, 2010. This tax cut benefitted 93 per cent of personal income tax filers in Ontario and helped 90,000 low-income Ontarians by no longer requiring them to pay personal income taxes to the province.

Second Career

Second Career provides laid-off, unemployed workers with skills training to help them find jobs in high-

demand occupations in Ontario. The program helps pay the cost of tuition, books, living expenses and other expenses associated with training for a new career. Ontario has helped more than 74,000 Ontarians participate in training by providing up to \$28,000 per person based on individual need.

Training for vulnerable women

The Women in Skilled Trades and Information Technology (WIST/IT) training program gives low-income women the training they need to get better-paying jobs. In the current WIST/IT 2012–2014 program, more than 350 women have participated in training.

The new Microlending for Women in Ontario Program is helping low-income women build and grow their own businesses. It provides training over three years to an anticipated 800 low-income women in the skills needed to start and run a business.

Additionally, the Employment Training for Abused/at-Risk Women Program is helping women enhance their employment potential, find jobs and support their economic security. For the 2013–2015 program, more than 600 abused/at-risk women are expected to participate in employment training.

Ticket Speculation Act

In 2010, Ontario passed legislation to strengthen consumer protection by ensuring Ontarians have fair access to tickets for their favourite concerts, sporting events and theatrical performances.

The law ensures that companies, brokers or agents cannot withhold popular event tickets from sale on the primary market in order to sell them through a related company at a higher price on the secondary market.

Drive Clean

Beginning April 1, 2014, Ontario drivers will pay \$5 less for their Drive Clean emissions tests.

From 1999 through 2010, smog-causing emissions of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons from light-duty vehicles were reduced by an estimated 335,000 tonnes. And during the same period, the light-duty program also reduced emissions of carbon monoxide by about 3.18 million tonnes and carbon dioxide, a key greenhouse gas, by more than 296,000 tonnes.

Paralegal regulation

In 2007, Ontario became the only jurisdiction in Canada to regulate paralegals. More than 5,500 paralegals are now licensed and insured in Ontario, resulting in a more efficient legal services market for consumers.

Updated: April 21, 2014

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Kathleen Wynne

Premier of Ontario

“We are committed to delivering the exceptional services that the people of Ontario expect and deserve. We will continue to work to raise the bar, so that our province can flourish and prosper for generations to come.”

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ABOUT ONTARIO ►

Progress Report 2014: transit and infrastructure

The Ontario government has made unprecedented investments of almost \$100 billion to modernize transit and infrastructure across the province since 2003.



This report highlights achievements that are improving people’s quality of life today and laying the groundwork for a prosperous tomorrow, such as:

- building or rebuilding more than 7,900 kilometres of road and more than 950 bridges across the province over the last decade
- more than \$9.1 billion invested in GO Transit, including 10 new stations and 28,600 parking spots across the system
- infrastructure investments in hospitals supporting nearly 26,000 jobs over the past year and more than 100 major projects at hospitals across the province complete or underway

Progress Report • 2014 • INFRASTRUCTURE

Ontario’s Infrastructure Investments



650 new schools have been built or are underway since 2003.



23 new hospitals have been built or are underway since 2003.



Supported the creation of **100,000** jobs per year in construction.

Ontario’s Public Transit Investments

And a **63%** increase in the GO Transit fleet including more than **200** new commuter rail cars and **47** new double-deck GO buses.

Ontario’s Transportation Investments

Over **7,900** kilometres of new or repaired provincial highways since 2003.

On this page

- [Public transit](#)
- [Highways](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Courthouses](#)
- [Public Safety](#)
- [Pan American and Parapan American Games](#)

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- [Progress Report 2014: education](#)
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Graphic 1 – Shows the exterior of a school building and beneath the building there is text that says “650 new schools have been built or are underway since 2003.” Graphic 2 – Shows the exterior of a hospital and beneath the building there is text that says, “23 new hospitals have been built or are underway since 2003.” Graphic 3 – Shows a construction worker and next to them there is text that reads “Supported the creation of 100,000 jobs per year in construction.” Graphic 4 - Lists key investments in Ontario public transit infrastructure, which are: “A 63% increase in the GO Transit fleet including more than 200 new commuter rail cars and 47 new double-deck GO buses”; July 2013 –

“Construction begins at Union Station for the Union Pearson Express. It will be in service by 2015.”; April 2013 – “25 new double-decker GO buses hit the road; April 2013 – “28 new train cars added to the fleet, with another 65 to be delivered between June 2016 – July 2017. This increases GO Transit’s fleet of train cars to 743”; March 2014 - “Metrolinx owns 68% of the rail corridor on which GO Transit operates.”; Summer 2014 – “Niagara service now operates May 16-19, June 27-September 1 and October 10-13. Barrie service now operates June 28-September 1.” Graphic 5 – Lists Ontario’s transportation investments, which are: Over 7,900 kilometres of new or repaired provincial highways since 2003

We’re undertaking the largest infrastructure investment in Ontario’s history — as many as 100,000 men and women are at work across Ontario, laying the foundations for our province’s bright future.

Ontario’s 2013 Budget committed to making significant investments to modernize infrastructure over three years, supporting more than 100,000 jobs a year as we build highways, bridges, hospitals, transit corridors and schools. This will attract investment, increase our competitiveness and create jobs for today and tomorrow. It will also immediately improve everyday life for the people of Ontario.

After decades of government neglect, in 2003 Ontario’s crumbling infrastructure was having a negative impact on businesses, and making everyday life difficult. Only immediate and ongoing government action could put Ontario back on track.

Since 2003, the government has invested nearly \$100 billion in public infrastructure. Through the 2013 Budget, Ontario committed more than \$35 billion towards infrastructure over the next three years, including about \$13.5 billion in 2013-14.

To get the best value for public dollars, the government, through Infrastructure Ontario, adopted the Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) model. AFP has brought projects in on time and on budget, and Ontario is now a global leader for its prudent management of public infrastructure projects.

Progress can be seen all across Ontario. By maintaining and improving our bridges, highways and roads, businesses can get their products to market more quickly so they can grow and create jobs. Increased labour mobility resulting from more and better transit systems has supported a dynamic climate for Ontario businesses. And with less congestion and less pollution, people are healthier and have more time to work, spend time with friends and family, and strengthen their community.

Building and upgrading social infrastructure — our 23 new hospitals and 650 new schools — makes people healthier, and supports the goals of Ontario’s education system.

Public transit

We are investing more than \$2 billion in transit infrastructure in 2013-2014, building on the nearly \$20 billion we’ve invested in Ontario’s transit systems since 2003.

These record investment levels have made it easier to leave the car at home, saving people money and stress. This reduces greenhouse gas emissions and makes it easier for people and goods to move, supporting a dynamic business environment.

Investing in transit also directly supports growth, productivity and jobs in Ontario’s key industries, such as the Bombardier factory in Thunder Bay.

Union Pearson Express

Metrolinx will build, own, and operate the Union Pearson (UP) Express, which will be in service in time for the 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games, connecting Canada’s two busiest transportation hubs — Union Station and Pearson International Airport. Construction began in summer 2012 and will be completed in 2014.

As part of the UP Express, a new three-kilometre spur line from the Kitchener (formerly Georgetown) GO line to Pearson Airport is being constructed. Construction on the spur line began in summer 2012 and will be completed by summer 2014. Construction of the spur line alone will create up to 1,200 jobs.

Work on all UP Express Stations is well underway with Bloor, Weston and Union Station beginning

construction in 2013. Bloor and Weston Stations are anticipated to be completed by December 2014, with the station at Union to be in service by 2015.

Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan

Ontario has committed more than \$9 billion for Metrolinx regional transit projects in Toronto and York Region, including:

- \$1.4 billion for the VIVA bus rapid transit project in York Region. This includes upgrading the existing VIVA system to provide 37 kilometres of bus-only lanes and new stations on Yonge Street, Highway 7 and Davis Drive. Construction is now underway, and on August 18, 2013, an approximately 2.5 kilometre-long segment of the VIVA BRT along Highway 7 in Markham from Bayview Avenue to Highway 404 opened
 - construction on the VIVA system will create approximately 14,000 jobs
- \$8.4 billion to support new transit in Toronto, including an extension of the Bloor-Danforth subway line and the construction of three light rail transit lines, one of which — the Eglinton Crosstown — is underway and currently the largest public transit project in Canada

The Eglinton Crosstown is supporting thousands of design and construction jobs, and will provide lasting economic and quality of life benefits to Toronto and its surrounding region:

- the 19 kilometre route will connect to 54 bus routes, 3 subway stations and the GO Train
- in 2010, Metrolinx concluded a contract with Bombardier for the purchase of light rail vehicles for use on the light rail transit lines in Toronto, supporting hundreds of manufacturing jobs at its Thunder Bay plant
- the Eglinton Crosstown tunnel liners are being fabricated by a company located in Barrie, while the Bombardier cars assembled in Thunder Bay will be tested in Kingston
- in June, 2013, four tunnel-boring machines began digging the underground portion of the Eglinton Crosstown. Tunnelling is expected to be complete in 2016, with service beginning in 2020

Mississauga Transitway

- Ontario is providing \$65 million to the City of Mississauga to support its bus rapid transit project
- Ontario is contributing another \$48 million in GO Transit investments to Mississauga
- the Mississauga Transitway consists of two project segments:
 1. the GO Transit portion from Winston Churchill to Erin Mills
 2. the Mississauga portion from Mississauga City Centre to Renforth Drive
- this project will provide high-efficiency bus rapid transit service along Highway 403, Eastgate Parkway and Eglinton Avenue in Mississauga
- when fully complete in 2016, the 18 kilometre Transitway will have 12 stations, beginning at Winston Churchill Boulevard in the West and ending at Renforth Drive in the East
- construction is well underway on bus-only lanes and stations, with Phase 1 from the City Centre to Dixie Station scheduled to open in 2014. The Transitway project is expected to generate more than 2,500 jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 27 tonnes over its lifecycle

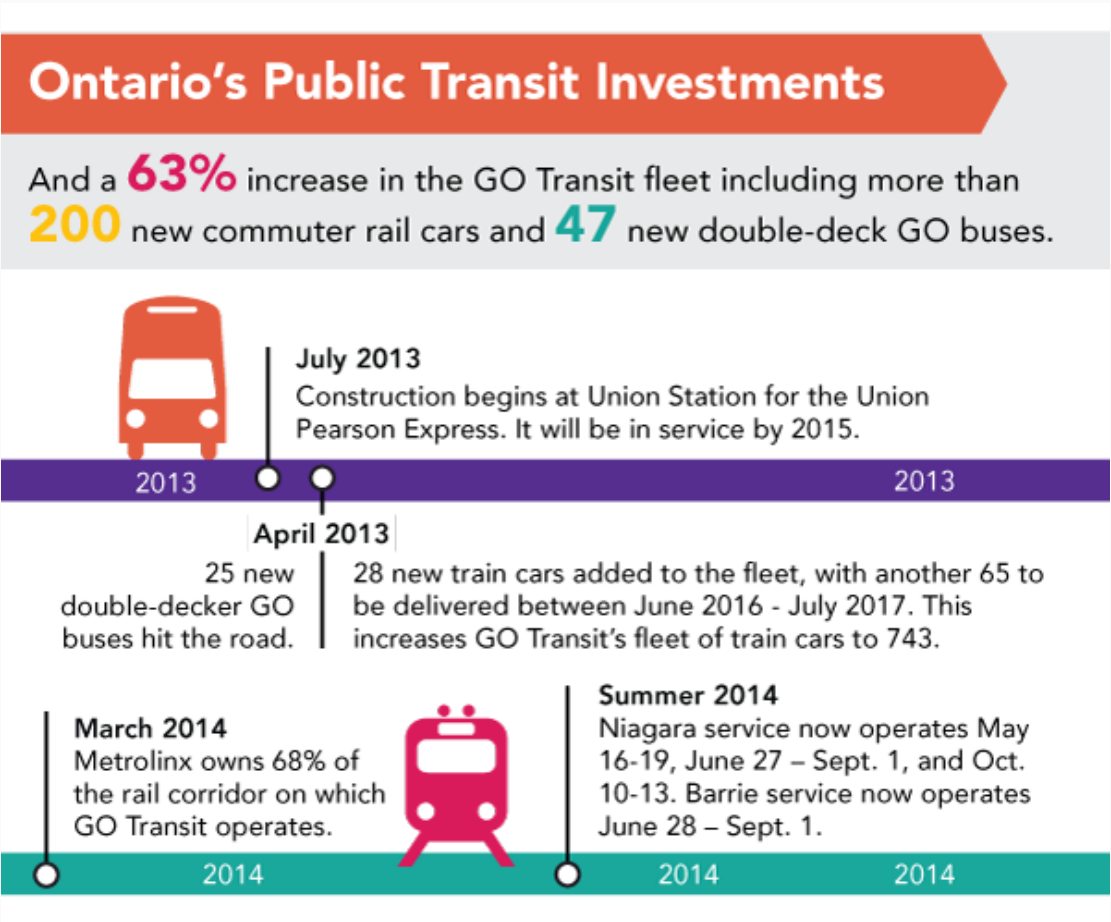
Bus Rapid Transit in Durham

- Ontario committed \$82 million in the 2008 budget to implement bus rapid transit service in Durham
- the project is expected to create more than 800 jobs
- construction is well underway. The BRT is expected to be in full service by 2016

Brampton ZÜM

- Ontario has provided \$95 million to the city of Brampton to support its ZÜM bus rapid transit project through the 2006 Move Ontario investment
- the project is expected to create more than 2,800 jobs
- Brampton Züm is currently operational along Queen Street, Main Street and Steeles Avenue (Phase I)
- phase II of the project will see service launched along Bovaird Drive in 2014, with expanded service along Steeles Avenue in 2015 and Queen Street in 2016
- full completion is expected by the end of 2017
- since the initial launch of service along the Queen Street corridor, there has been an increase of

16 per cent in ridership along the corridor



GO Transit

Since 2003, the provincial government has demonstrated its commitment to providing an affordable, reliable and comfortable alternative to vehicle travel in the GTHA by investing more than \$9.1 billion in GO Transit. We're progressing toward full-day, two-way service across the system to seamlessly connect communities, economies and people.

Since 2003, GO Transit has added:

- 10 new stations and 30,000 parking spots across the system
- 208 new rail cars and 152 new single-level buses and 47 new double decker buses, building a modern, accessible, fuel efficient fleet that is serving more passengers
- GO's locomotive fleet has also expanded, including 57 new fuel-efficient MP40 locomotives that were put into service between 2008 and 2011

Investing in GO Transit has helped ridership increase every year. In 2012-13, there were 65.5-million passenger trips, up from 62.4-million passenger trips in 2011 — a five per cent increase.

We've continued to make progress across the GO Transit system in 2013-2014:

- in January 2013, GO opened the new Acton Station on the Kitchener line
- in April 2013, 25 new GO Transit double-decker buses went into service
- in April, 2013, GO Transit and Metrolinx announced two major orders from Bombardier in Thunder Bay that will grow the bi-level train car fleet to accommodate more riders: the purchase of 28 new cars, with delivery expected in 2014, as well as the purchase of an additional 65 new cars for delivery between June 2016 and July 2017. This order will increase GO Transit's fleet of train cars to 743
- in May 2013, construction began on a new GO bus storage and maintenance facility in East Gwillimbury
- as of June 2013 we added 263 new train trips along the

Did you know?

Full-day, two-way GO connecting Toronto's Union Station to Waterloo Region's Kitchener Station and Waterloo Region's Light Rail Transit will create a super-cluster of more than 12,000 technology companies, 2,800 start-ups, and 200,000 technology employees. This builds on Ontario's strength as a top three destination in North America for information and communication technology companies.

- Lakeshore line each week — off-peak GO trains that used to run hourly along the Lakeshore line between Aldershot and Oshawa are now running every 30 minutes, seven days a week
- in August 2013, 700 parking spaces were opened at the new Ajax parking structure. The completed structure has more than 1,300 spaces
- in September 2013, a new 6 level, 1,500 space parking garage at Erindale Station was opened
 - the Guelph GO Station's Kiss and Ride, and the tunnel that connects it to the station and train platform, opened in October 2013
- in March 2014, the Province announced that it is moving toward full-day, two-way GO Train service between Waterloo Region and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). In addition, it was announced that two additional morning and afternoon peak period trips would be added by 2016

Municipal transit projects

- Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension:
 - this project is expected to support an estimated 20,000 jobs during construction. The Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension is expected to add 36 million transit trips and eliminate 30 million car trips per year
 - tunnelling on the project was completed in 2013 and station construction is currently underway
- Ottawa Light Rail Transit Project:
 - Ontario is investing up to \$600 million for the Ottawa light rail transit project — the single-largest provincial investment in transit infrastructure in the City of Ottawa's history, which could support up to 3,300 jobs per year during construction
 - tunnelling has begun on the downtown tunnel. The downtown tunnel will be 2.5 kilometers long with three stations — Lyon, Parliament, and Rideau Station
 - the project will improve traffic flow in the city with the removal of more than half the buses from downtown and reduce the city's fuel consumption by 10 -million litres every year
 - work on the future Maintenance and Storage Facility is currently underway, having begun on April 19, 2013
 - the Ottawa Light Rail Transit Project is expected to be fully operational in 2018
- Waterloo Region's Rapid Transit Project:
 - Ontario is investing up to \$300 million for this rapid transit project, which will connect the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge with a combination of light rail and bus rapid transit services, ultimately connecting with GO Transit services
 - the project will support about 8,000 jobs across the province, and will be in service by 2017. Construction on the bus rapid transit portion is underway.
 - on July 10, 2013 the Region of Waterloo announced that agreements have been finalized among Waterloo, Metrolinx and Bombardier for the purchase of 14 Light Rail Vehicles (LRV) to serve Stage 1 of Waterloo Rapid Transit service, with an option to purchase an additional 14 LRVs for Stage 2
 - on March 28th, the province and Region of Waterloo announced that a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) has been signed between the Region of Waterloo and the Government of Ontario

Union Station revitalization

Major improvements to Union Station are now underway. Ontario is investing up to \$172 million for improvements that include:

- a three-fold increase to the Metrolinx- owned GO Transit concourse space to make room for twice as many GO Transit passengers at Union Station by 2030
- the purchase and refurbishment of the west wing of Union Station for the relocation of Metrolinx's head office
- constructing a new northwest PATH connection that will extend underground from Union Station up York Street to the existing PATH system in the Wellington Street area to relieve crowding and support future downtown growth
- restoring the heritage features of the main building

The new York Concourse for GO Transit is expected to be completed in 2014.

Ontario has also committed \$270 million for the redesign of GO Transit's train shed roof and

improvements to passenger train access at Union Station.

PRESTO fare card

To make it easier to take transit throughout the GTHA and Ottawa, the province has implemented PRESTO — an easy-to-use electronic fare system. It allows commuters to transfer seamlessly across multiple transit systems in the GTHA, and on OC Transpo in Ottawa. As of March 2014, more than one million riders are using their PRESTO cards to tap onto transit across the GTHA and in Ottawa.

Gas tax

Ontario dedicates two cents per litre of the provincial gas tax to municipalities for transit.

Did you know?

Compared to 2003, 2012 transit ridership increased by more than 193 million trips on public transit. That translates into approximately 161 million car trips not taken on our roads.

Through the 2013 Ontario Budget, the government passed the Dedicated Funding for Public Transportation Act, which made the gas tax program permanent.

Since 2004, we have committed more than \$2.7 billion in gas tax funding to Ontario municipalities, including \$163.4 million for the current interim six-month program.

For the 2013-14 interim six-month program, 96 transit systems in 133 communities across the province will receive gas tax funding. These 133 communities represent nearly 90 per cent of the total population of Ontario.

Electric vehicles

The Electric Vehicle Incentive Program was launched in July 2010. So far, Ontario has provided more than 1,700 incentive payments and issued more than 2,000 green plates, providing single occupant access to the province’s high occupancy vehicle lane network.

Fourteen vehicle models are now eligible, up from nine models in 2012:

1. Mercedes Smart Fortwo
2. Nissan Leaf
3. Mitsubishi i-MiEV
4. Tesla S
5. Ford Fusion Energi
6. Ford Titanium
7. Ford Focus Electric
8. Chevrolet Volt
9. Toyota Prius PHV
10. Chevrolet Spark
11. General Motors/Cadillac ELR
12. Ford C-MAX
13. Porsche Panamera SE
14. BMW i8

The Electric Vehicle Charging Incentive Program was launched on January 1, 2013. So far, Ontario has provided incentives for approximately 300 eligible electric vehicle charging stations for residential/fleet use.

In 2013, new electric vehicle charging stations were opened at five GO stations in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area to make it easier for drivers to use environmentally friendly transportation. Aurora, Centennial, Lincolnville, Oakville and Whitby GO stations now offer charging stations for electric vehicles. Ajax, Burlington, Pickering, Erindale and Clarkson GO stations will open electric vehicle charging facilities in early 2014.

Ontario is also showing its commitment to electric vehicles (EV) through:

- 19 research and development projects related to EV technology over the next six years in a partnership with Magna
- production support of the Toyota RAV4 electric vehicle in Woodstock

Ontario's Transportation Investments

Over **7,900** kilometres



of new or repaired provincial highways since 2003.

Highways

Since 2003, Ontario has committed more than \$19 billion to design, repair and expand provincial highways and bridges across Ontario.

In 2013-14, Ontario has created or sustained:

- more than 17,000 direct and indirect jobs to repair, and expand southern provincial highways
- more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs to repair and expand northern provincial highways

High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes are now in use on highways 403 and 404 (GTA), 417 (Ottawa) and the Queen Elizabeth Way (Halton Region).

Did you know?

Since 2003, Ontario has built or rebuilt more than 7,900 kilometres of highways and more than 950 bridges across Ontario.

Did you know?

Ontario's roads are among the safest in North America.

Nineteen highway service centres have been redeveloped to provide travellers with reliable access to fuel, modern amenities, restaurants, enhanced tourism information and upgraded, accessible comfort facilities. Three of these opened in 2013, and only one service centre is left for redevelopment.

Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund

The 2013 Budget set aside \$100 million to help small, rural and northern communities make the road, bridge, water and wastewater infrastructure investments that are required to support economic growth and job creation. After working with municipalities to establish a framework for funding, the province awarded \$96 million for projects in 87 municipalities across Ontario, including 20 projects submitted under the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative and 67 projects under the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund (SRNMIF).

In addition, the province provided \$4 million to support asset management planning in smaller communities. Local governments will award contracts funded under SRNMIF and will begin work over the spring and summer of 2014, with these projects reaching completion by the end of 2015.

Windsor-Detroit Tunnel

Improvements to the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel Canadian Plaza will meet anticipated future demand and help separate cross-border traffic, reducing congestion in downtown Windsor. The detailed design of the Canadian plaza began in fall 2011. Construction started in September 2012 and is anticipated to be completed in fall 2014. This project is part of the federal-provincial Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving strategy.

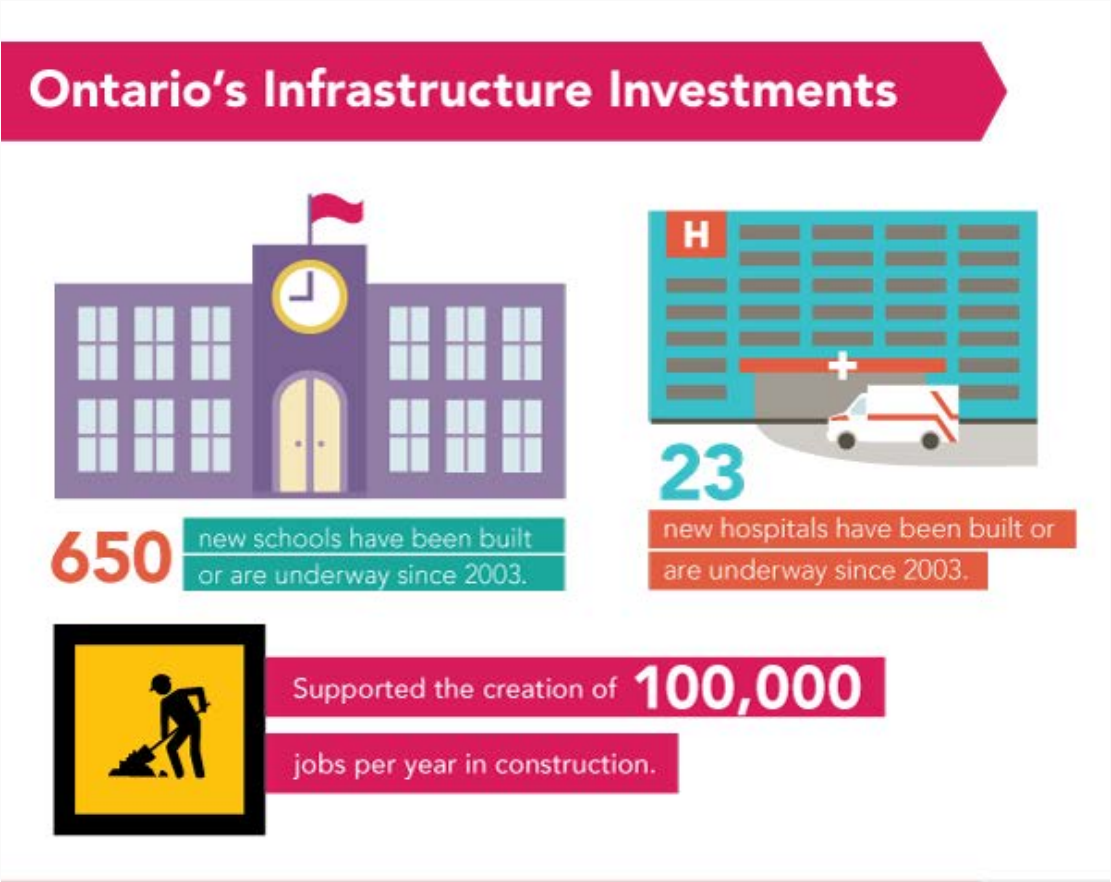
The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway

Construction started on this \$1.4 billion investment in August 2011. Since then, it has made progress in key areas such as demolition, excavation, tunnel and bridge construction, highway construction, utility relocation, and species-at-risk relocation.

The new Parkway is starting to take shape and benefit adjacent communities with some of the permanent structures being opened to the travelling public, including a section of Highway 3, two

bridges, one tunnel and a multi-lane roundabout to traffic.

Additionally, some of the permanent features have been installed including landscape plantings and noise walls. It is anticipated that the Highway 401 portion of the Parkway will be open to traffic by the end of the year.



Schools

Since 2003, improving Ontario's education infrastructure has created and sustained about 16,000 jobs every year.

Ontario launched Good Places to Learn in 2005 to renovate and repair schools, build additions, and fund new school construction. Ontario has invested \$12 billion in school infrastructure since 2003, including nearly 650 new schools (80 of which have been completed since 2012), more than 620 additions and renovations, and 27,000 repair and renewal projects. Ontario has also helped make more than 2,600 publicly funded schools more energy efficient.

Hospitals

Since 2003, 23 new hospitals have been built or are under construction — three of them since 2013. As part of our effort to transform health care and provide the right care, in the right place, at the right time, Ontario has invested more than \$21 billion in health care infrastructure since 2003.

In 2013-14, provincial infrastructure investments in our hospitals have supported nearly 26,000 jobs. Construction is moving forward or is complete for more than 100 major projects at hospitals across the province.

[Find health and wellness infrastructure projects](#)

Courthouses

Since 2003, Ontario has built and significantly renovated or expanded 28 courthouses across the province. This includes five new consolidated courthouses, which are providing modern, efficient, and accessible justice services. They are also boosting regional economies by creating and supporting hundreds of jobs.

The Durham Region Courthouse, which opened in 2010, was the first of these new, state-of-the-art, consolidated facilities. In 2013, courthouses in Quinte and Waterloo Region were completed. The Elgin County Courthouse in St. Thomas opened in March 2014, and will be followed by the Thunder Bay Courthouse in April 2014.

Public Safety

The government has invested more than \$1.6 billion in modernizing public safety infrastructure across the province, including:

- **South West Detention Centre:** located in Windsor, the centre is scheduled to open in spring 2014. The government invested \$247 million in the project
- **Toronto South Detention Centre:** this new facility, on the site of the former Mimico Correctional Centre, addresses Ontario's current and future inmate capacity needs. Inmates moved into the facility in early 2014. The government invested \$594 million in this public safety project
- **Forensic Services and Coroners Complex:** this complex replaced the existing Office of the Chief Coroner facilities in downtown Toronto and its associated offices in Guelph and Brampton. The Ontario Centre of Forensic Sciences and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Services also moved into the facility. Co-locating these creates a facility that is efficient, secure and maintains the integrity of the criminal investigations and provincial medico-legal death investigations. The government's investment in this public safety initiative totals \$497 million
- **Ontario Provincial Police Modernization Project:** under the OPP modernization project, the provincial government replaced 18 detachments, regional headquarters and forensic identification services in 16 communities across the province. The government invested \$293 million in this public safety project

Pan American and Parapan American Games

The 2015 Pan American and Parapan American Games (Games) will be the largest multi-sport event ever held in Canada, spanning 10,000 square kilometres and 15 host municipalities. The infrastructure we are building to host the Games is boosting the regional economy today and will provide a lasting benefit to communities.

The Athletes' Village project is revitalizing the West Don Lands — a part of downtown Toronto that has been underused for a long time. Hosting the Games will accelerate the project by up to 15 years. As the host province, Ontario is investing \$709 million (\$514 million to design, build and finance the project and \$195 million in site preparation and transaction costs) to create a sustainable mixed-use riverside community.

In December 2013, the Village reached an important milestone with the topping off of the structures. Construction is more than 80 per cent complete, on budget, and will be ready in time for the Games.

Following the Games, the Village will become a mixed-use community that includes the Corktown Commons, Toronto's newest green space, affordable and accessible housing, a new YMCA, George Brown College's first student residence and a new streetcar line serving the West Don Lands and the adjacent Distillery District.

Ontario is also investing in other legacy projects. The province is providing \$22.5 million for the construction of the new Hamilton stadium that will benefit the city and the Greater Golden Horseshoe and \$22.5 million for the Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport at the University of Toronto. The Goldring Centre will bring together sport science research, teaching, and sport medicine for the benefit of Ontario's athletes and coaches.

The province will also contribute to funding to operate the Milton Velodrome, Pan Am Aquatics Centre, and York stadium.

Hosting the Games will:

- trigger investment in new and existing sports and recreation infrastructure, as well as the Sport Legacy Fund to contribute to the operation and capital maintenance of three brand new Games facilities
- create 26,000 new jobs — 15,000 jobs directly related to Games investments and another 11,000 are projected as a result of Games-related investments and tourism
- expand the pre-apprenticeship program to an additional 200 trainees who are gaining work experience on Pan Am and Parapan Am Games infrastructure projects

Did you know?

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

- attract an estimated 250,000 visitors and bring 10,000 athletes and team officials to Ontario
- build and train a team of up to 20,000 volunteers — a valuable foundation for future events and community building; additional OSAP incentives will encourage university and college students to participate

Updated: April 13, 2014

Rate



Share



Tags

Government



Kathleen Wynne

Premier of Ontario

“We are committed to delivering the exceptional services that the people of Ontario expect and deserve. We will continue to work to raise the bar, so that our province can flourish and prosper for generations to come.”

Contact Us



Topics

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- Taxes and benefits
- Travel and recreation

ABOUT ONTARIO ►

Progress Report 2014: jobs and economy

The Ontario government has made significant progress in creating a globally competitive environment to attract new investments to the province, and in reducing red tape for businesses. Ontario's 2014 Jobs and Prosperity Progress Report highlights achievements that are setting the province up for long-term success, creating jobs for today and tomorrow.



- the province has created 655,700 new jobs (net) since October 2003, and 446,100 new jobs (net) since the recessionary low in June 2009
- Ontario's economic diversity — Ontario's industries include everything from agriculture and advanced manufacturing to financial services, mining and information communications technologies — strengthens the province's resilience
- in 2013, Ontario was number one in North America for total foreign investment capital. That same year, Ontario was also the fourth leading jurisdiction in North America for total inward foreign direct investment projects
- Ontario is making Open Government one of its top priorities, and there are now more than 177 data sets available and more being prepared. Access to high-value data helps businesses grow and spurs innovation

Recommended for you

[Progress Report 2014: education](#)

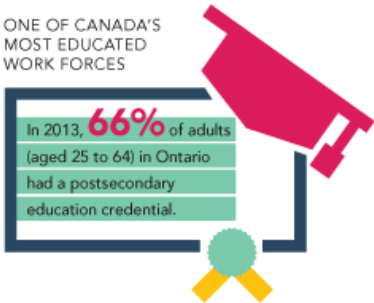
[Progress Report 2014: health care](#)

[Progress Report 2014: pocketbook initiatives](#)

[Progress Report 2014: transit and infrastructure](#)

[Jobs for today and tomorrow](#)

ONE OF CANADA'S
MOST EDUCATED
WORK FORCES



\$295M

THE AMOUNT THE GOVERNMENT
IS INVESTING IN THE YOUTH JOBS
STRATEGY OVER 2 YEARS.

10,706 youth already have jobs
as a result of the Youth Jobs Strategy.



IN 2013,
95,700
JOBS WERE CREATED
IN ONTARIO.



CISCO CANADA

UP TO **3,700** JOBS CREATED AND
1,300 JOBS RETAINED OVER 10 YEARS



FORD

2,800 JOBS RETAINED



SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
DEVELOPMENT FUND

12,000 JOBS CREATED AND RETAINED



EASTERN ONTARIO
DEVELOPMENT FUND

15,500 JOBS CREATED AND RETAINED

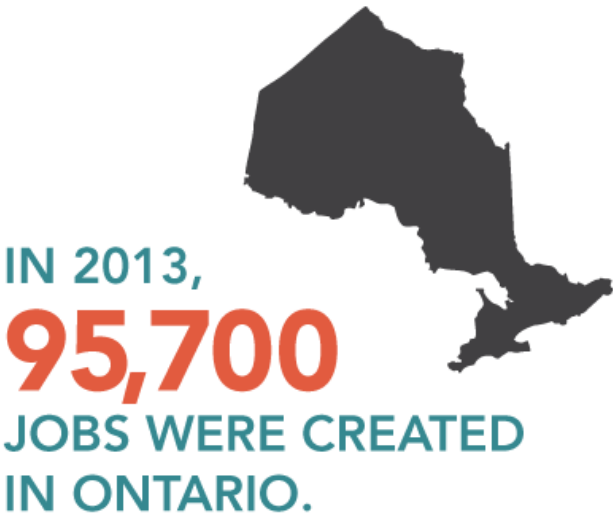


NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE
FUND CORPORATION

4,203 JOBS CREATED AND RETAINED SINCE 2003

Ontario's economy

Growing the economy and supporting job creation across Ontario is the government's number one priority. A growing economy is the means by which we expand opportunity and build security, and it supports continued investments in people's health and education.



The Ontario government's investments in infrastructure, health care and education are supporting economic growth as employers and workers adapt and seize opportunities in the new global economy.

The Ontario government understands that its role in building a prosperous economy is to ensure that we have a competitive tax system, a smart and dynamic business climate, a skilled and healthy workforce and modern infrastructure.

By strategically partnering with businesses looking to expand, we are creating jobs today and supporting investments in productivity that secure future jobs. Despite recent challenges, Ontario's manufacturing sector is adapting to global economic challenges and increased competition. Manufacturing will continue to be a significant part of the province's economy, generating employment in the years to come.

To build on the strengths of our people and strategic partnerships, the Ontario government has a jobs plan that focuses on six straightforward priorities, all with the common goal of building a stronger economy with more and better jobs all across the province.

Last year, Ontario created new 95,700 jobs — that is nearly 43 per cent of all new jobs across Canada in 2013.

Did you know?

Ontario's GDP rose by 1.3 per cent in 2013 and all private-sector forecasters expect modest growth to continue. [Source: 2013 Fall Economic Statement].

Ontario's combined federal-provincial corporate income tax (CIT) rate is lower than the combined federal/state CIT rate in **every** US state.

Plan for jobs and growth

The Ontario government's six-point plan for jobs is a clear set of priorities to build on our strengths and create jobs for today and tomorrow.

- Supporting key industries — we are supporting key industries so they can become more competitive and more productive. We are working with companies and communities to create the conditions our key industries need to succeed and thrive.
- Supporting small businesses — we are supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs with a competitive tax environment and by providing them access to venture capital and help them in finding new markets overseas.
- Talent and skills — we are investing in our best resource: people. We maintain our highly skilled and adaptable work force by investing in education, from full-day kindergarten to post-secondary. We want Ontario to be the first in North America when it comes to talent, training, retraining and skills development.
- Youth Jobs Strategy — We are addressing youth unemployment through our comprehensive Youth Jobs Strategy.
- A building and infrastructure program — we are investing in public infrastructure, building new schools, hospitals and a seamless and integrated transportation network across the province.
- Balancing the budget — we are on track to balance the budget by 2017–18.

Supporting key industries

We are committed to working with businesses to create the conditions they need to succeed, and to create lasting partnerships.

The general corporate income tax rate went down from 14 per cent to 12 per cent in 2010, and to 11.5 per cent in 2011. The manufacturing and processing corporate income tax rate fell from 12 per cent to 10 per cent and the small business corporate income tax rate fell from 5.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent in 2010.

Ontario's combined federal-provincial general corporate income tax rate is now almost 13 percentage points lower than the average combined federal-state corporate income tax rate in the United States. It's also competitive with the average corporate income tax rate of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member countries.

When the HST input tax credits for large businesses are fully phased in, about \$4.7 billion a year in embedded taxes paid by businesses will be removed. It's also reducing paperwork costs for businesses by more than \$500 million a year. These savings can be used to help businesses grow and create jobs.

Ontario is on track to save businesses more than \$9 billion per year when you combine:

- corporate income tax rate reductions for large and small businesses
- the HST, which removes embedded sales taxes paid by businesses
- elimination of the capital tax

As a result of these and other tax changes, the marginal effective tax rate on new business investment in Ontario has been cut in half since 2009, providing a strong incentive for businesses to invest in Ontario.

Capital investments made by businesses continue to support Ontario's economic growth.

Investments in machinery and equipment have increased by 14.1 per cent since the recession.

Supporting small businesses

As of January 1, 2014, the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption increased from \$400,000 to \$450,000 of Ontario payroll, saving eligible employers up to \$975 per year. This means that over 60,000 private-sector employers in Ontario pay less EHT, including more than 12,000 employers that no longer pay the tax. Private-sector employers with annual Ontario payrolls over \$5 million, including groups of associated employers, are no longer eligible for the exemption. Registered charities, including those with payrolls over \$5 million, continue to be eligible for the exemption.

Cutting red tape

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business has recognized Ontario's success in cutting red tape by repeatedly ranking it among the top jurisdictions in Canada to do business. Since 2008, under the Open for Business initiative, Ontario has cut 80,000 regulatory requirements and introduced tools to add transparency and predictability to the regulation-making process, saving businesses more than 150,000 hours of administrative work.

Through Ontario's new burden reduction strategy, the government will continue to reduce red tape for businesses and stakeholders by over \$100 million by 2016–17.

The government has proposed legislation to create a better business climate by supporting the reduction of burdens for business and helping drive regional economic growth by supporting the development of clusters. The Better Business Climate Act, 2014, if passed, would require the Minister to annually publish a report with respect to actions taken by the Government of Ontario to reduce burdens.

Progress by sector



Auto

- hundreds of thousands of jobs are supported by the automotive sector across Ontario, from assembly and parts manufacturing to producers of electronics, plastics and metals
- Ontario has been North America's leading automaker for nine of the past 10 years, and is renowned for its best-in-class manufacturing expertise and innovation
- our province is home to five of the top light vehicle makers (Toyota, General Motors, Ford, Chrysler and Honda) — a unique status within NAFTA
- during the worst recession in a generation, we committed \$4.8 billion to support the restructuring of GM and Chrysler, an investment that supported Ontario's entire auto industry. Since the recessionary low of 2009, Ontario's automotive sector has recovered over 14,984 jobs (as of December 2013). The Ontario government contributed \$70.9 million to Ford to help finance the re-tooling of a plant in Oakville in 2013, and to retain this assembly plant and approximately 2,800 jobs into the next decade

Aerospace

- Ontario is home to 14 of the top 25 global aerospace companies and over 200 firms support this \$5.3-billion industry, which employs 17,000 people
- over 80 per cent of all finished products in aerospace are exported
- Ontario accounts for 30 per cent or \$462 million of all aerospace R&D in Canada, and Ontario-made aerospace parts are used on virtually every passenger aircraft in the world
- in 2013, the government announced \$26 million in support to Centennial College for a new aerospace training facility. At capacity this facility at Downsview Park will be able to accommodate over 900 students, up from the current 380 capacity at their current campus
- in February 2014, Airbus Helicopters, a top global helicopter manufacturer, chose its Fort Erie, Ontario, factory as the best location at which to expand production and invest in advanced manufacturing, further cementing Ontario's reputation as an aerospace leader. This investment will create approximately 40 new high-skill manufacturing jobs

Defence

- with \$6.6 billion in defence sales, Ontario accounts for over half of Canada's defence industry. The sector contributes to over 37,000 jobs in Ontario, including companies working in the aerospace and defence-related ICT sectors
- 12 of the top 25 global defence companies have operations in Ontario. The province has three significant defence clusters:
 - London, which specializes in military land vehicles
 - Ottawa, which specializes in defence-related ICT
 - Toronto, which is home to several aerospace and defence ICT companies
- General Dynamics Land Systems – Canada (GDLS Canada) of London recently won a contract to supply armoured vehicles, along with support vehicles, training and in-service support, to Saudi Arabia. The sale — valued at \$10 billion — is the largest ever export sale in Canada's history, and will support over three thousand jobs at GDLS's London facility and other companies

Chemicals

- Ontario's industrial chemicals sector represents about 45 per cent of the Canadian industry, with annual shipments of \$16.2 billion, including \$10.5 billion in exports
- Sarnia-Lambton is Canada's largest chemical and allied manufacturing cluster
- 29,000 Ontarians work in the province's chemicals industry, and seven of the world's top 10 companies have operations here
- recent investments for Ontario's chemistry sector include:
 - NOVA Chemicals' \$250-million upgrade of its ethylene cracker, which will capitalize on Marcellus shale gas. In December 2013, NOVA announced a \$300-million investment to expand its polyethylene production capacity in the Sarnia-Lambton area. Polyethylene is

used to manufacture packaging films, trash, garment, grocery and shopping bags, molded housewares, toys; plastic containers, pipe; drums, gasoline tanks, coatings and many others

- Cytec Industries is investing over \$150 million to expand its phosphine manufacturing capacity in Niagara Falls. Its new factory is scheduled to be operational in spring 2014.
- BioAmber is investing \$120 million in Sarnia as the location for its first North American bio-succinic acid plant (succinic acid is a key base chemical with applications in personal care products, resins and coatings, plastics, polyester and polyurethanes). Commercial production is scheduled to begin in 2015

Clean-tech

- with 925 MW installed as of September 2013, Ontario is a leading North American jurisdiction in solar energy capacity. Ontario has 3,000 clean-tech firms and employs 65,000 people in the clean-tech sector, generating annual revenues of more than \$8 billion
- Toronto-based XPV Capital has raised \$250 million, including an investment from the Northleaf Venture Catalyst Fund, for its second venture capital fund focusing on water technologies. XPV is one of the largest water technologies in the world
- ArcTern Ventures (formerly the MaRS Cleantech Fund) is a \$30-million privately backed venture capital fund that provides early stage capital to clean-tech companies

Culture and tourism

- tourism is an important economic driver. Preliminary numbers for 2012 indicate that tourism supported over 300,000 jobs and generated \$28 billion for Ontario's economy
- tourism in Ontario grew in 2012, compared to 2011:
 - more than 142 million people visited our province
 - tourists spent more while here compared to 2011
- in 2013, Tourism Toronto estimates that the city welcomed a total of 13.69 million overnight visitors, including 1.42 million visitors from overseas markets (all countries other than Canada and the United States). This is the largest number of overseas visitors on record. The increase in visitors led to a record 9.22 million hotel room nights being sold
- the Metro Toronto Convention Centre hosted the Microsoft Worldwide Partner's Conference in July 2012, which attracted over 16,000 people to the city and generated an estimated \$24.2 million in economic activity
- Toronto was the first North American city to host the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Weekend and Awards, attracting tens of thousands of visitors and raising Ontario's profile to hundreds of millions of viewers
- Ontario is making progress to transform Ontario Place into a year-round, multi-use waterfront destination and urban public park for everyone to enjoy.
 - as a first step, Ontario is building a new urban park and waterfront trail, converting up to 7.5 acres of the site into green space and linking to the existing 780-kilometre waterfront trail system. The new park and trail will serve as an anchor for future development on the rest of the site
 - the revitalization of Ontario Place as a year-round multi-use destination will grow tourism, create jobs and develop new opportunities and experiences that stimulate the economy
- the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games will attract as many as a quarter-million visitors who will stay in local hotels, see great shows, dine in restaurants and shop in the province's stores. More than 26,000 new jobs will be created as a result of Games investments, Games-related investments and tourism
- the Ontario Music Fund will help stimulate economic growth and support the competitiveness and long-term sustainability of Ontario's music industry. In its first year, the program is expected to support over \$90 million in new spending, leading to increased music recording activity, live music performances, music exports and investments in strategic business development initiatives

Did you know?

Ontario's provincial parks receive over 8.5 million visits annually.

- the 2013 Celebrate Ontario program supported more than 200 festivals and events across Ontario

Energy

- in 2003, Ontario's energy infrastructure was suffering from under investment, resulting in brownouts and pollution that hurt both families and our economy. We've invested heavily in Ontario's energy infrastructure and supported the emergence of Ontario's clean energy sector. In just ten years, the province has become a North American leader in the development and manufacture of clean energy. The export potential for Ontario's clean energy businesses means that this new industry will continue to contribute to Ontario's economy well into the future
- to help families with the cost of modernizing Ontario's energy systems, in the 2010 Fall Economic Statement, we introduced the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit, which provides residential consumers, farms and small businesses with 10 per cent off the total costs of electricity on eligible consumers' bills, including tax, limited to the first 3,000 kilowatt-hours every month until the end of 2015
- Ontario also intends to take the Debt Retirement Charge (DRC) off residential electricity bills after Dec. 31, 2015, saving the typical residential consumer \$5.60 per month. The province is also working with the Ontario Energy Board to develop the new Ontario Electricity Support Program to help make electricity more affordable for low-income families. After Dec. 31, 2015, eligible low-income Ontarians could expect to receive similar relief as currently provided by the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit, in addition to the removal of the Debt Retirement Charge, an expected annual benefit of \$250
- Ontario's clean energy initiatives, including the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program, have attracted billions of dollars in new private-sector investments, generated more than 31,000 jobs and significantly increased the amount of clean energy in our supply mix. Our FIT program has helped to attract more than 30 solar and wind manufacturing facilities to Ontario
- Ontario is home to the 100 largest solar photovoltaic (PV) projects in Canada and has the most solar PV capacity of any jurisdiction in Canada with over 900 Megawatts (MW) online. It's expected to produce enough electricity to power more than 100,000 homes each year. In 2003, Ontario had 15 MW of wind capacity — we now have approximately 2,300 MW of clean wind power online
- as of January 2014, Ontario's \$50-million Smart Grid Fund has supported 11 projects and created more than 600 direct and indirect jobs. New projects are expected to be announced in 2014, expanding on these investments and job levels
- Ontario is now the first jurisdiction in North America to fully eliminate coal as a source of electricity generation. This is the single-largest climate change initiative in North America and is equivalent to taking up to seven million cars off the road
- to make sure businesses remain competitive, the government has expanded eligibility in the Industrial Electricity Incentive (IEI) program. The expanded program provides eligible consumers some of the lowest electricity rates in exchange for expanding their operations in Ontario and will now cover energy-intensive, non-industrial sectors like greenhouses, data processing and refrigerated warehousing, as well as industrial companies
- the province also extended the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate (NIER) program to 2016 to support continued growth and development in the northern resource and manufacturing sector. Originally set to end in 2013, the \$360-million program extension provides electricity price rebates, which represent about a 25 per cent reduction in electricity prices to qualified consumers
- the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI), introduced in 2011, enables the province's largest electricity consumers to reduce their consumption during peak periods, lower their costs and increase competitiveness. Approximately 200 of Ontario's largest electricity consumers are part of this initiative. The government has also expanded the ICI program to include eligible electricity-intensive customers with monthly peak demand greater than 3 MW, down from the current threshold of 5 MW. The expansion of the program would open participation to hundreds more businesses in the industrial, greenhouse, refrigerated warehousing and data hosting sectors

- Ontario is helping industrial users fast track capital investment in major energy-efficiency projects by providing attractive financial incentives to encourage investment in innovative upgrades and equipment retrofits to help them remain globally competitive
- Ontario-based small businesses will also be offered enhanced conservation programs in partnership with local distribution companies and key agencies. A [five-point plan](#) has been developed to help small businesses conserve energy, manage costs and save money

Film, TV and digital media production

- Ontario is the third-largest film production location in North America
- film and television production supported by the province's media tax credits contributed nearly \$1.15 billion to our economy in 2013, making Ontario the number one film and television production jurisdiction in Canada
- since 2003, employment in Ontario's entertainment and creative industries has grown faster than employment in the broader economy. It supports over 300,000 jobs and contributes over \$12.2 billion annually to the provincial economy
- to continue attracting investment in the entertainment and creative industries, Ontario offers competitive tax credits and business support through the [Ontario Media Development Corporation](#)

Financial services

- in March 2014, Toronto was ranked as having the fifth most competitive financial services sector in North America, according to the Global Financial Centres Index. Ontario's financial services sector employs 380,000 people
- the World Economic Forum has named Canada as home to the world's soundest banks for the sixth straight year in its Global Competitiveness Report

Venture capital

- Ontario launched the Northleaf Venture Catalyst Fund in partnership with the federal government, as well as corporate and institutional investors
- the new fund builds on the success of the existing [Ontario Venture Capital Fund](#). Since the province launched the Ontario Venture Capital Fund in 2008, Ontario's investment has leveraged \$970 million in private-sector capital while creating and retaining 1,611 jobs in the province
- Ontario's Venture Capital Strategy has helped Ontario's total venture capital investment grow to \$676M in 2013, ranking it 7th among North American jurisdictions
- in January 2014, the Northleaf Venture Catalyst Fund had its first closing with a total value of over \$217 million in commitments, which could rise to \$300 million as additional private-sector partners invest in the fund. The fund is already active and has made two investments into venture capital funds and one direct investment
- the fund will reinforce Ontario's position as a North American leader in venture capital by attracting investments to the province and helping businesses grow and compete globally

Agriculture and food

- the agri-food sector is one of our leading economic engines, contributing \$34 billion to our province's GDP each year and providing almost 740,000 jobs
- Ontario is home to Canada's largest food-processing sector, accounting for 3,000 businesses that employ more than 95,000 people across the province
- in 2013, Ontario's agri-foods exports hit a record high, surpassing \$11 billion for the first time
- since 2003, we have invested more than \$116 million to support local food. Included is support made available through Foodland Ontario to promote and encourage the purchase of Ontario food
- the new [Local Food Fund](#) and new [Local Food Act](#), which were created in 2013, are part of the Ontario government's broader local food strategy to increase demand for Ontario foods and beverages by promoting the good things that are grown, harvested and made across the

province

- through the Local Food Fund, we are investing up to \$30 million over three years to support innovative local food projects
- Ontario food processors purchase nearly two –thirds of the food produced on Ontario farms
- each year, our government invests approximately \$75 million in research to support growth in the agricultural sector
- Ontario has provided more than \$2.5 billion directly to farmers in income support since 2003
- since October 2003, the Rural Economic Development program has supported 468 projects, with an investment of \$167 million, resulting in more than \$1.2 billion in new economic activity. The Rural Summer Jobs Service Program provides a \$2/hour hiring incentive to rural employers who have, in turn, created summer jobs for more than 43,000 students since 2003

Did you know?

The Greater Toronto Area is one of the top three food-processing clusters in North America. Premier Kathleen Wynne has challenged the agri-food sector to double its growth rate and create 120,000 new jobs by 2020.

Housing

- since 2003, Ontario's funding commitment of nearly \$3 billion is the largest affordable housing investment in the province's history. Ontario is supporting the creation of over 17,000 affordable rental housing units; making more than 263,000 repairs and improvements to social and affordable housing units; and, rental and down payment assistance to over 81,000 households in need
- this investment has led to the creation of 60,000 jobs across Ontario including close to 8,000 new jobs under the Investment of Affordable Housing for Ontario (IAH) program to build and repair affordable housing units
- through IAH, as of March 31, 2014, more than \$373 million in funding has been committed to build and repair 10,144 units and provide rental and down payment assistance to 6,941 households
- Ontario is a North American leader in energy efficiency for new buildings — compared to a house built in 2006, a house built today must be 40 per cent more energy efficient to be up to code

Information communications technology (ICT)



CISCO CANADA

UP TO **3,700** JOBS CREATED AND
1,300 JOBS RETAINED OVER 10 YEARS

- Ontario is first in Canada and second in North America in the information communications technology (ICT) sector for number of businesses
- our ICT sector employs about 250,000 people, representing about 47 per cent of total ICT jobs across Canada
- Ontario supported the Communitech hub in Waterloo, where over 1,323 new companies have been created since it was launched in 2010
- Ontario is home to two of the world's top-20 start-up ecosystems: Toronto (8) and Kitchener Waterloo (16), according to Startup Genome. The only other jurisdiction with two cities in the top 20 is California
- Cisco partnership

- Ontario is partnering with Cisco Canada to embark on the largest job-creating investment ever in the history of the province's tech sector
- Ontario will become one of a handful of global R&D hubs for the network equipment maker's next-generation technologies. Cisco chose Ontario for this expansion because of its talented workforce, research infrastructure and competitive business climate
- Cisco will expand its current workforce to 3,000 by creating up to 1,700 jobs in the next six years. The agreement also has the potential to expand Cisco's Ontario workforce to up to 5,000 over the next 10 years, for a total investment from Cisco of up to \$4 billion, including \$2.2 billion in salaries alone
- OpenText partnership
 - Ontario is partnering with technology leader OpenText, a made-in-Ontario success story, to support the company's expansion and help create as many as 1,200 jobs in the province over the next seven years. Waterloo-based OpenText — a powerhouse in Enterprise Information Management software and Canada's largest software company — will invest up to \$2 billion to carry out its key research and development work on cloud computing in Ontario

Life sciences

- the province is home to world-renowned research centres, hospitals and clinicians that include the Ontario Cancer Institute, SickKids, Mount Sinai and London Health Sciences Centre
- 57 per cent of revenues (2011) and 55 per cent of employment (2012) in Canadian pharmaceutical and medical manufacturing happens in Ontario
- through the Global Leadership Round in Genomics & Life Sciences (GL2), Ontario is supporting 19 world-class genomics research projects valued at over \$114 million

Forestry and forest products

The forestry and forest products sector is important to Ontario's economy and to the quality of life of hundreds of northern communities. For several years, global market conditions presented Ontario's forestry sector with considerable challenges. Our government has worked tirelessly to support the sector and the communities who rely on it by strategically investing in the competitiveness of Ontario's forestry sector.

- the forest products and wood manufacturing sectors employ about 56,000 people directly and 180–200,000 indirectly in over 260 communities across Ontario
- we've provided approximately \$1.2 billion in assistance to the forest sector since 2005
- in 2011, Ontario's forest sector generated approximately \$11.9 billion towards Ontario's economy
- the Northern Industrial Electricity Rebate Program — which our government created — has provided more than \$433 million in rebates since 2010/11. This includes approximately \$151.5 million in rebates to forestry companies
- we took action to support the sector by initiating the largest wood supply competition in the province's history and moving ahead with a modernized forest tenure system
- we launched the Ontario Wood brand to promote Ontario wood, both domestically and internationally, along with our industry partners
 - there are several examples of companies that have emerged from financial restructuring and others that are investing in Ontario
 - Aditya Birla (Birla) has acquired Terrace Bay Pulp Inc. and will spend over \$250 million to convert it to the production of dissolving pulp supporting a total of 1,900 direct and indirect jobs
 - Resolute Forest Products has announced it will invest \$50 million to build a new sawmill in Atikokan. The mill is expected to employ 90 people when it becomes fully operational in 2014
 - EACOM is rebuilding and expanding its Timmins sawmill, which was extensively damaged by fire in 2012, at a cost of \$25 million. The company expects to bring back all employees displaced by the shutdown. It is expected to reopen by the summer of 2014

- forestry companies are investing millions in communities like Hornepayne, Atikokan, Ignace, Iroquois Falls and Terrace Bay and we expect further investments as lumber prices continue to rise

Mining

- Ontario remains Canada's top jurisdiction for mineral exploration; industry expenditure was more than \$600 million in 2013
- Ontario's market share of exploration investments within Canada has climbed from 20 per cent in 2007 to 26 per cent in 2013
- Toronto is the global leader in mining finance, with the Toronto Stock Exchange and the TSX Venture Exchange holding roughly 57 per cent of global mining listings
- in February 2014, Vale celebrated the grand opening of Totten Mine, its sixth mine in Ontario and its first new mine in the Sudbury Basin in 40 years
- Ontario and Matawa-member First Nation Chiefs and community members commemorated the important milestone on the path towards Ring of Fire development together at an official ceremony and celebration on April 24, 2014, in Thunder Bay
- on April 24, 2014, the Province of Ontario and the Matawa-member First Nations celebrated the signing of a landmark regional framework agreement. This agreement, signed on March 26, 2014, will ensure First Nation communities benefit from the proposed Ring of Fire development

Waste management

- the waste management sector in Ontario contributes over \$3 billion annually to the GDP and \$300 million in capital expenditures
- Ontario is creating new opportunities for business investment and jobs by harnessing the economic value of waste through a review of Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sectors. The review will look at the best tools for increasing diversion in ICI sectors, including manufacturing, office buildings, shopping complexes, construction projects, restaurants, hotels and motels, hospitals and educational institutions
- according to the Labour Force Survey from Statistics Canada, Ontario employment in waste management and remediation services was 15,200 in 2013

Did you know?

Every 1,000 tonnes of recycled waste supports seven jobs and generates \$720,000 in gross domestic product.

Social enterprise

- in 2013, Ontario released its first ever Social Enterprise Strategy for Ontario. This will help build this emerging sector, create jobs and attract investments
- over 1,600 jobs will be created through this strategy, including jobs for youth, Aboriginal people, persons with disabilities and other marginalized populations

Trade expansion – Going Global

- trade helps strengthen Ontario's economy by creating jobs, accelerating innovation, increasing foreign direct investment and boosting GDP
- through the Going Global Trade Strategy, the province is committed to improving Ontario's export performance, with a special focus on helping Ontario's small and medium enterprises
- launched in September 2013, the Going Global Trade Strategy will:
 - broaden the reach of Ontario's exports to high-growth emerging economies, including working with the federal government to pursue new trade agreements
 - increase support for more Ontario firms to export their products or services
 - build the province's competitive advantage abroad by promoting Ontario companies' quality goods and services
 - streamline export programs and resources for businesses so they can more easily access the supports they need to go global

- in January 2014, Ontario opened its 11th International Marketing Centre in São Paulo, Brazil. This network of international business centres includes offices in New York, San Francisco, Mexico City, London, Paris, Munich, Beijing, Shanghai, Tokyo and New Delhi (including a satellite office in Mumbai). These business centres provide an on-the-ground presence in high-potential markets that help Ontario firms to grow their exports while promoting the province as a destination for investment
- based on recommendations from the Jobs and Prosperity Council, Ontario's new Global Export Forums are helping to build greater awareness of global trade opportunities for Ontario businesses in priority markets. The Ontario's first forum was hosted in September 2013 and focused on the Asia Pacific region. Latin America is the focus of the next forum, which will be held on May 28, 2014

Immigration

Achieving the full benefits of immigrants' participation in the labour market requires that the provincial and federal governments work together to enhance the economic integration of newcomers. Providing the necessary training and supports will help immigrants prepare to enter the labour market and contribute to Ontario's future prosperity sooner.

- in February 2014, we introduced the Ontario Immigration Act to strengthen Ontario's role in immigrant selection and continue our commitment to settlement. The Act will, if passed, help put in place tools to meet the province's future labour market needs and support economic growth
- Ontario recognized the first-ever recipients of the Ontario Award for Leadership in Immigrant Employment, for their role in championing diversity and supporting jobs in their communities
- in 2010, Ontario made it easier for internationally trained engineers to get their licence by allowing qualified foreign-trained engineers to be licensed to work in Ontario without being a Canadian citizen or permanent resident

Progress by region



Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF)

Since its launch in October 2012, Ontario committed more than \$40 million through the Southwestern

Ontario Development Fund to:

- leverage business investment of over **\$400 million**
- help to create over 2,000 new jobs
- help to retain more than 10,000 jobs

Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF)

- the government places high importance on regional economic development and is committed to this fund. This fund is a regional program to support economic development initiatives to businesses, municipalities and not-for-profit associations
- since its launch in 2008, Ontario committed more than \$70 million through the Eastern Ontario Development Fund to:
 - leverage business investment of over **\$670 million**
 - help to create over 3,000 new jobs
 - help to retain more than 12,500 jobs

In addition, Ontario launched the Investment Ready: Certified Site Program, the first of its kind in Canada. Through this program, Ontario is partnering with communities and property owners across the province to attract more jobs and investment. A Certified Site designation gives investors a greater degree of certainty when looking for development opportunities in Ontario municipalities, and this provides a competitive advantage when competing for globally-mobile investment.

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC)

- in the 2012 Budget, **\$100 million** was provided to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) to invest in new projects across the North that will stimulate growth, attract investment and create jobs. This funding will help grow Northern Ontario's economy
- since October 2003, the NOHFC has approved over \$897 million, towards more than 5,933 projects, leveraging over **\$3.2 billion** in investment. We are helping create or sustain over 22,900 jobs and co-op placements across the North

Rural Economic Development (RED)

- the Rural Economic Development (RED) program removes barriers to development and economic growth by giving communities the tools and flexibility they need to become stronger and more economically diverse
- since October 2003, 468 RED projects have been approved with a provincial investment of more than \$167 million. This investment has generated more than \$1.2 billion in new economic activity and has supported the creation/retention of more than 35,000 jobs
- RED funding helps rural communities grow local businesses, boost tourism, and attract new business through projects that focus on business development, training, community marketing and strategic planning
- In its 2013 Ontario Budget, the government reiterated its commitment to “continue its existing investments made through the Rural Economic Development (RED) program”

Youth Jobs Strategy



Higher youth unemployment threatens to create a generation of stalled hopes and stagnant wages. We introduced a Youth Jobs Strategy to help young people overcome the challenge they face entering the workforce and launching a successful career. The Youth Jobs Strategy will get more young people working, either through employment or by starting their own businesses. An investment of \$295 million over two years will generate training, mentorship and job opportunities for 30,000 youth across the province.

Youth Employment Fund

- as of April 11, 2014, Ontario's [Youth Employment Fund](#) (YEF) has already helped 10,706 young people find jobs, get training and gain valuable work experience
- the fund is delivered through Employment Ontario's Employment Service (ES), an established service delivery network that is accessible to all communities in Ontario through a network of 171 service providers and 324 funded sites

Youth Skills Connections

- the Youth Skills Connections Fund will provide \$25 million to help address the skills gap in Ontario by promoting partnerships among business, labour, not-for-profits, educators and youth
- in March 2014, we announced two new projects under the Youth Skills Connections Program. George Brown College and Ryerson University will partner with business and labour to deliver specialized programs that will prepare 212 young people for jobs in the food, metal manufacturing and information communications technology sectors. Fifty projects have been approved to date and are getting started. A second call will be launched in May 2014

Ontario Youth Entrepreneurship Fund

- Ontario is promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career option and improving job prospects for youth by allowing them to become job creators instead of job seekers
- the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund will provide \$45 million to our next generation of business owners through training, mentorship and start-up capital. This includes the following programs:
 - High School Entrepreneurship Outreach supports new models to spark interest in entrepreneurship as a career solution to high school students
 - Strategic Community Entrepreneurship Projects provides funding to non-profit organizations with experience working with high-needs communities to help youth gain the skills needed to be self-employed
 - Starter Company provides training, private-sector mentoring and grants of up to \$5,000 to help youth aged 18 to 29 become start-up ready

- Youth Business Acceleration Program is for youth aged 18 to 29 operating a start-up company in the technology sector or innovation space. It provides educational programs, market intelligence services, advice and network support, and grants between \$5,000 and \$20,000
- Seed Capital Fund will provide initial seed-stage grants of up to \$35,000 to help new, promising youth-led ventures reach early milestones in creating and growing their start-ups
- Youth Investment Accelerator Fund will provide investment capital of up to \$250,000 in youth-led companies beyond the seed capital stage
- in March and April 2014, we announced the initial round of projects being funded through High School Entrepreneurship Outreach and the Strategic Community Entrepreneurship Projects. In total, 40 projects across Ontario have been approved to date and are getting started. A second call for High School Entrepreneurship Outreach will be launched in May

Through the Ontario Youth Entrepreneurship Fund, Ontario will:

- reach over 250,000 students
- fund 490 businesses
- leverage \$32M in investments
- create more than 4,000 jobs

Ontario Youth Innovation Fund

- the Youth Innovation Fund will provide \$30 million for campus-linked accelerators and internship programs for graduate and PhD students. This includes:
 - the TalentEdge Internship Program supports opportunities for innovative post-secondary students to enhance their skills
 - this program will fund about 300 student internships and 200 post-doctoral fellowships
 - Campus-Linked Accelerators (CLAs) and the On-Campus Entrepreneurship Activities (OCEA) help post-secondary institutions create, improve and sustain a culture of entrepreneurship among students and youth in their regions. This program is expected to support 1,000 youth-led businesses and create 1,400 jobs

Ontario Summer Jobs Strategy

- the Ontario government is once again investing in its Summer Jobs Strategy to help students build skills, find summer jobs and launch their own summer businesses
- the Ontario Summer Jobs Strategy unites eight ministries' summer employment programs and services for youth, and will help more than 86,000 students get jobs and access services this summer. Information is available online at www.ontario.ca/readysetwork and www.ontario.ca/summerjobs to help students and youth:
 - find job listings
 - search for a job through Employment Ontario agencies
 - improve their marketing skills and resume writing
 - apply for a job with the Ontario government
- through the Summer Job Service, employers are also encouraged to hire students and provide hands on training for tomorrow's workforce through a \$2 per hour hiring incentive
- through the Summer Company program, eligible students between the ages of 15 and 29 are provided with up to \$3,000 and mentoring to help start and operate their own business
- in 2013, 661 businesses were launched through the program, creating jobs and building entrepreneurial skills among Ontario's youth
- since Summer Company began in 2001, students have started more than 5,000 businesses across a wide range of sectors, including graphic design, landscaping, manufacturing, fashion design, computer repair and food services. They have learned and developed entrepreneurial skills that will help them strengthen Ontario's economy for the future

Where will a summer job take you? NFL draft pick Tyrone Crawford talks about his Summer Jobs for Youth experience with Border City Boxing in Windsor.

Apprenticeship training

The Ontario government understands the importance of a strong skilled trades sector to the current and future economy. We know, for example, that close to one in five new jobs in Ontario over this decade are expected to be in trades-related occupations.

Following our government's record three-year \$35-billion investment in major infrastructure projects, the government is working to ensure that employers have the skilled tradespeople they need to fill thousands of jobs.

In 2013–2014, the Ontario government invested approximately \$165 million in Ontario's apprenticeship system.

These projects include:

1. **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)** encourages more than 24,000 young people each year to participate in apprenticeship training and obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma
2. **Pre-Apprenticeship Program** aims to prepare those individuals who are seeking an apprenticeship but have encountered barriers to accessing training. The program has grown from 19 projects serving 365 clients in 2002–03 to 52 projects serving 926 clients in 2012–13. Projects that focus on youth at risk, new Canadians, Aboriginal and women client groups are given priority during the assessment process
3. **Co-op Diploma Program (CODA)** offers a different pathway to youth interested in pursuing both a college diploma and apprenticeship training. It provides young apprentices with up-front skills training that some employers demand and thereby makes it easier for them to access employment and training. The program has grown from 9 projects serving 211 clients in 2004–05 to 37 projects serving 908 clients in 2013–14

The Ontario government's efforts are paying off. In 2014, there are:

- approximately 120,000 apprentices learning a trade today — which is about 60,000 more than in 2002–03
- new annual apprenticeship registrations have grown from 17,100 in 2002–03 to more than 30,000 in 2012–13

Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit

- the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit (ATTC) is a refundable tax credit, available to businesses, on the salaries and wages paid to eligible apprentices in about 130 designated trades across the construction, industrial, motive power and service sectors
- approximately 80 per cent of Ontario's apprenticeship trades are supported by the ATTC
- the ATTC is providing over \$250 million in support in 2013–14
- along with other government support programs, the ATTC has helped to increase new annual apprenticeship registrations from 17,000 in 2002–03 to 30,000 in 2012–13

It is the most generous tax credit of its kind in Canada. Qualifying businesses can claim 35 per cent of eligible expenditures (45 per cent for small businesses) made during the first 48 months of an apprenticeship program. The maximum credit for each apprenticeship is \$10,000 per year. The maximum credit over the first 48-month period of the apprenticeship is \$40,000.

Women in Skilled Trades and Information Technology (WIST/IT)

- women play an important role in contributing to a healthy economy, and we are committed to

ensuring that there are economic opportunities for women and all Ontarians

- since 2003, more than 2,100 women have participated in training through the Women in Skilled Trades and Information Technology (WIST/IT) training program. This program gives low-income women the training they need to get better-paying jobs. In the current WIST/IT program (2012–2014), more than 330 women have participated in training
- the new Microlending for Women in Ontario Program is helping low-income women build and grow their own businesses
- the Microlending program (2012–2015) will be providing training to an anticipated 635 low-income women in the skills needed to start and run a business, and will be providing an estimated 174 microloans

Infrastructure

Since 2003, the government has invested nearly \$100 billion in public infrastructure. Through the 2013 Budget, Ontario committed more than \$35 billion towards infrastructure over the next three years, including about \$13.5 billion in 2013–14. This investment is supporting more than 100,000 jobs a year.

In April 2014, the government announced Moving Ontario Forward — the next step in our plan to build a seamless and integrated transportation network across the province, create jobs, boost productivity and help every part of Ontario grow and prosper. The robust plan would put in place dedicated and substantial funding for public transit and transportation infrastructure. It would make nearly \$29 billion available over the next 10 years for investments in priority infrastructure projects across the province such as public transit, roads, bridges and highways. The province would create two dedicated funds — one for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area with up to \$15 billion available for investment in transit and one for the rest of the province with nearly \$14 billion available for investment in roads, bridges, transit and other critical infrastructure. Funding sources for Moving Ontario Forward would include new revenue measures, repurposed revenues and a responsible level of debt financing, when needed.

Public transit

- since 2003, we have invested more than \$19.3 billion in public transit in Ontario, including more than \$9.1 billion in GO Transit. These record investments make it easier for people to leave their cars at home, promote healthy communities, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help protect the environment

Union Pearson Express

- Metrolinx will build, own and operate the Union Pearson (UP) Express, which will be in service in time for the 2015 Pan/Parapan Am Games, connecting Canada’s two busiest transportation hubs — Union Station and Toronto Pearson International Airport. Construction began in 2012 and will be completed in 2014
- as part of the UP Express, a new three-kilometre spur line from the Kitchener (formerly Georgetown) GO line to Pearson Airport is being constructed. Construction on the Spur Line began in 2012 and will be completed by 2014. Construction of the Spur Line alone will create up to 1,200 jobs

Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan

Ontario has committed more than \$9 billion for Metrolinx regional transit projects in Toronto and York Region, including:

- \$1.4 billion for the VIVA bus rapid transit project in York Region. This includes upgrading the existing VIVA system to provide 37 kilometres of bus-only lanes and new stations on Yonge Street, Highway 7 and Davis Drive. Construction on the VIVA system is now underway and will create approximately 14,000 jobs
- \$8.4 billion to support new transit in Toronto, including an extension of the Bloor-Danforth subway line and the construction of three light rail transit lines, one of which — the Eglinton

Crosstown — is already underway. The Crosstown is supporting thousands of design and construction jobs, and will provide lasting economic benefits to Toronto and its surrounding region. In 2010, Metrolinx concluded a contract with Bombardier for the purchase of light rail vehicles for use on the light rail transit lines in Toronto, supporting hundreds of manufacturing jobs at its Thunder Bay plant. Construction of the Eglinton Crosstown, Finch West and Sheppard East LRTs will create approximately 69,000 jobs

Mississauga Transitway

- Ontario is providing \$65 million to the City of Mississauga to support its bus rapid transit project
- this project will provide bus rapid transit service along Highway 403, Eastgate Parkway and Eglinton Avenue in Mississauga, with service along the first four stations starting in 2014 and on the remaining corridor in 2016
- construction is well underway on bus-only lanes and stations
- Ontario is contributing another \$48 million in GO Transit investments to Mississauga
- the Transitway project is expected to generate over 2,500 jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 27 tonnes over its lifecycle

Bus rapid transit in Durham

- \$82 million committed in the 2008 budget to implement Bus Rapid Transit service in Durham
- the project is expected to create over 800 jobs
- construction is well underway. The Bus Rapid Transit is expected to be in full service by 2016

Brampton ZÜM

- Ontario has provided \$95 million to the city of Brampton to support its ZÜM bus rapid transit project through the 2006 Move Ontario investment
- the project is expected to create over 2,800 jobs
- Brampton ZÜM is currently operational along Queen Street, Main Street and Steeles Avenue (Phase 1)
- Phase II of the project will see service launched along Bovaird Drive in 2014, with expanded service along Steeles Avenue in 2015 and Queen Street in 2016. Full completion is expected by the end of 2017
- since initial launch of service along the Queen Street corridor there has been an increase of 16 per cent in ridership along the corridor

GO Transit

Since 2003, the provincial government has demonstrated its commitment to getting people out of cars and onto public transit by investing more than \$9.1 billion in GO Transit. GO Transit has put new rail cars and buses into service that are modern, accessible, more fuel efficient and can carry more passengers.

Since 2003, GO Transit has added 10 new stations and 30,000 parking spots across the system. Meanwhile, GO Transit’s ridership in 2012–13 was 65.5-million passenger trips, up from 62.4-million passenger trips in 2011 — a five per cent increase.

Our investments have been helping Metrolinx:

- undertake the infrastructure improvements necessary to move towards two-way, all-day GO Train service
- expand the number of GO trains and double-decker buses
- build and refurbish GO transit stations

In April 2013, 25 new GO Transit double-decker buses went into service. In May 2013, construction began on a new GO bus storage and maintenance facility in East Gwillimbury.

As of June 2013, off-peak GO trains that ran hourly along the Lakeshore line between Aldershot and Oshawa began running every 30 minutes, seven days a week. This has added 263 new train trips along the line each week.

GO's locomotive fleet has also expanded, including 57 new fuel-efficient MP40 locomotives that were put into service between 2008 and 2011.

The bi-level train car fleet is also growing to accommodate more riders, resulting in two major orders from Bombardier in Thunder Bay, including the purchase of 28 new cars in April 2013, with delivery expected in 2014, as well as the purchase of an additional 65 new cars for delivery between June 2016 and July 2017. This order will increase GO Transit's fleet of train cars to 743. This contract will help sustain the jobs at the Bombardier Plant in Thunder Bay.

Municipal transit projects

- Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension
 - the TTC estimates that the project is expected to create an estimated 20,000 jobs during construction. The Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension is expected to add 36 million transit trips and eliminate 30 million car trips per year
 - tunnelling on the project was completed in 2013 and station construction is currently underway
- Ottawa Light Rail Transit – Confederation Line Project
 - Ontario is investing up to \$600 million for the Ottawa light rail transit project — the single-largest provincial investment in transit infrastructure in the City of Ottawa's history, which the City of Ottawa estimates could create up to 3,300 jobs per year during construction
 - tunnelling has begun on the downtown tunnel. The downtown tunnel will be 2.5 kilometres long with three stations — Lyon, Parliament and Rideau Station
 - the project will improve traffic flow in the city with the removal of more than half the buses from downtown and reduce the city's fuel consumption by 10 million litres every year
 - work on the future Maintenance and Storage facility is currently underway, having begun on April 19, 2013
- ION Stage 1 – Waterloo Region's Rapid Transit Project
 - Ontario is investing up to \$300 million for this rapid transit project, which will connect the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge with a combination of light rail and bus rapid transit services, ultimately connecting with GO Transit services

Union Station revitalization

Major improvements to Union Station are now underway. Ontario is investing up to \$172 million for improvements that include:

- a three-fold increase to the Metrolinx-owned GO Transit concourse space to make room for twice as many GO Transit passengers at Union Station by 2030
- the purchase and refurbishment of the West Wing of Union Station for the relocation of Metrolinx's head office
- construction of a new northwest PATH connection that will extend underground from Union Station up York Street to the existing PATH system in the Wellington Street area to relieve crowding and support future downtown growth
- the restoration of heritage features of the main building

The new York Concourse for GO Transit is expected to be completed in 2014.

In addition, the province has committed \$270 million for the redesign of GO Transit's train shed roof and improvements to passenger train access at Union Station.

PRESTO fare card

To make it easier to take transit throughout the GTHA and Ottawa, the province has implemented PRESTO — an easy-to-use electronic fare system. It allows commuters to transfer seamlessly across multiple transit systems in the GTHA, and on OC Transpo in Ottawa. As of March 2014, more than one million riders are using their PRESTO cards to tap onto transit across the GTHA and in Ottawa.

Gas tax

Ontario dedicates two cents per litre of the provincial gas tax to municipalities for transit.

Through the 2013 Ontario Budget, the government passed the Dedicated Funding for Public Transportation Act, which made the gas tax program permanent.

Since 2004, we have committed more than \$2.7 billion in gas tax funding to Ontario municipalities, including \$163.4 million for the current interim six-month program.

For the 2013–14 interim six-month program, 96 transit systems in 133 communities across the province will receive gas tax funding. These 133 communities represent nearly 90 per cent of the total population of Ontario.

Highways

Since 2003, Ontario has committed over \$19 billion to design, repair and expand provincial highways and bridges across Ontario. In 2013–14, Ontario will create or sustain more than 17,000 direct and indirect jobs to repair and expand southern provincial highways.

In 2013–14, Ontario created or sustained more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs to repair and expand northern provincial highways.

High-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes are now in use on highways 403 and 404 (GTA), 417 (Ottawa) and the Queen Elizabeth Way (Halton Region).

Nineteen highway service centres have been redeveloped to provide travellers with reliable access to fuel, modern amenities, restaurants, enhanced tourism information and upgraded, accessible comfort facilities. Three of the sites opened in 2014 and only one service centre is left for redevelopment.

Did you know?

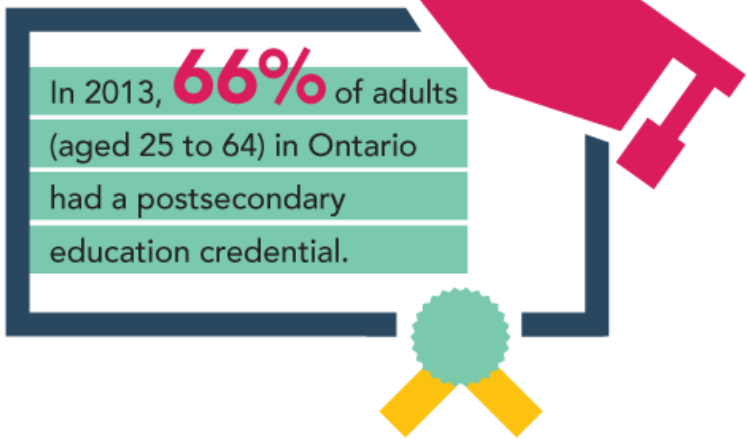
Ontario has created or maintained, on average, approximately 100,000 jobs across the province each year since 2003 through the building of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, community centres, water infrastructure, schools, courthouses, OPP detachments and hospitals.

Hospitals

Since 2003, 23 new hospitals have been built or are underway. Ontario has invested over \$21 billion in health-care infrastructure since 2003. In 2013–14, provincial infrastructure investments in our hospitals have supported nearly 26,000 jobs. Construction is moving forward or is complete for more than 100 major projects at hospitals across the province.

Schools

ONE OF CANADA'S
MOST EDUCATED
WORK FORCES



Since 2003, provincial investments in Ontario's education infrastructure have supported an average of about 16,000 jobs every year in construction and related industries.

Ontario has invested \$12 billion in school infrastructure since 2003, including nearly 650 new schools, over 620 additions and renovations, and 27,000 repair and renewal projects. Ontario has also helped make more than 2,600 publicly funded schools more energy efficient.

Pan Am Games

Hosting the Games will:

- trigger investment in new and existing sports and recreation infrastructure
- the Games and Games-related investments will create more than 26,000 jobs and grow Ontario's real GDP by \$3.7 billion from 2009 to 2017
- attract 250,000 visitors and bring 10,000 athletes and team officials to Ontario
- build and train a team of up to 20,000 volunteers — a valuable foundation for future events and community building
- through construction of the Athletes' Village, create 5,200 jobs and facilitate the development of the West Don Lands area, and leave behind a beautifully designed and sustainable mixed-use community
- leave a legacy of new and updated sporting facilities including the new Toronto PanAm Sports Centre in Scarborough, a new athletics stadium at York University, a new field hockey complex at University of Toronto, a BMX course in Etobicoke, upgrades to Centennial and Birchmount Parks, and resurfaced roads suitable for all types of racing

Updated: July 8, 2014

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Kathleen Wynne

Premier of Ontario

"Our government will build Ontario up. Ontario will be the best place to live, from childhood to retirement."

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