

libertarian bulletin

Newsletter
of the Ontario
Libertarian Party

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Metrolinx —A Counter Proposal

The Party issued the following Media Release on May 26, 2013.

The Greater Toronto-Hamilton Region (GTHA) is one of the fastest growing regions in North America. Currently, Toronto is building more skyscrapers than any other city in the West. Along with this unprecedented construction is immigration, making the GTHA one of the most diverse regions in the world. That growth has created congestion during parts of the workday so that the average commute time in the region is 82 minutes per day, one of the worst in North America.

That is the backdrop of the recent announcement by Metrolinx (an agency of the Ontario government) to proposed revenue tools that will fund a 25-year \$50 billion plan to fix congestion in the GTHA.

After years of planning, millions of dollars already spent, and thousands of people working on this plan, it is remarkably unimaginative. There is not a single novel suggestion on how to raise the \$2 billion annual cost of the plan. Every idea is a fee or a tax on the already overtaxed citizens of Ontario. For example, the plan calls for raising the HST by 1%, increasing the fuel tax by 5 cents per litre, and raising parking fees and business property taxes.

This begs the question, if transportation and transit infrastructure are regional and provincial government responsibilities, where have they been until now? Why weren't your tax dollars and transit fares used to fund the expected growth in the GTHA? Isn't that how a responsible government should operate?

There is no guarantee and no evidence that this \$50 billion government plan will reduce congestion in 25 years. Congestion may actually get worse in this region as urban sprawl continues, aided by the new transit infrastructure. One might ask why similar projections weren't made 25 years ago? We can only assume that government plans back then were wrong, or worse, ignored.

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LIBERTARIAN PUB NIGHTS

Come on out and meet other Libertarians from the area in a relaxed, informal, friendly atmosphere. We will discuss whatever is on your mind, including the recent Ontario Budget. Order dinner and/or drinks and pay your own tab.

BELLEVILLE - Tuesday June 4, 7:00 PM

Dem Bones SmokeShack & Sports Bar, 13 Bell Blvd.
Contact Andrew Skinner, 613-242-8566 or
andrew.skinner@libertarian.on.ca

BURLINGTON - Friday June 28, 7:00 PM

Williams Fresh Cafe, 2050 Appleby Line, Contact
Charles Zack, charleszack@sympatico.ca or 289-208-6566. Next Pub Night is July 25.

HAMILTON - Friday June 17, 7:00 PM

The Snooty Fox, 1011 King St. W. Contact Adam Hyde
at 905-356-6359 or adam@niagarafallstours.com Next
Pub Night is July 19.

WATERLOO - Thurs June 20, 7:00PM

Benny's Lounge, 183 Weber Street, Waterloo. Contact
Phil Bender (phil.libertarian@gmail.com or 905-703-6248). Next Pub Night is July 18.

OTTAWA - Saturday June 9, 2:00-4:00 PM

O'Brien's Eatery and Pub 1145 Heron Road. For more
information contact Andrew Philips (613-733-8948 or
andrewmp@rogers.com). Next meeting July 13.

STOUFFVILLE - Wednesday June 26, 6:00 PM

The Lion of Stouffville: 5917 Main St. For more
information contact Allen Small (small4357@rogers.com
or 905-477-4357). The next Pub Night is July 24.

SUDBURY - Friday May 31, 7:00 PM

The Laughing Buddha, 194 Elgin St. Contact Steve
Wilson, livefree.sw@gmail.com or 705-207-7618, or visit
www.facebook.com/groups/LPCNorthOnt/events/

TORONTO - June 12, 7:00 PM

The Granite Brewery & Restaurant, 245 Eglinton Ave. E..
Chris Schaffer of the Canadian Constitution Foundation
is our guest speaker. Contact Jim McIntosh (416-283-7589 or
cfo@libertarian.on.ca). Next Pub Night July 10.

**If you would like to organize a Libertarian Pub Night
in your area, contact Jim McIntosh at 416-283-7589
or 1-855-668-5423.**

THE PARTY OF CHOICE – Our Vision is communities of freedom, harmony and abundance.

The Mission of the Party is to enable endless possibilities through recognition of, respect for and protection of individual liberty.

MEDIA RELEASE — Ontario Budget 2013 - Digging a Deeper Hole

The May 2 Ontario Budget represents Kathleen Wynne's first budget as Premier, but will it be her last?

That's the \$127.6 billion question. Will this budget be enough to placate the NDP and get their support to avert a late spring election? That is the central question around this budget.

At first blush it appears that virtually all of the pre-budget demands of the NDP have been fulfilled in this document, effectively making it an NDP budget, so their support seems assured. We will know soon enough if they have been appeased.

Several times in the 314 page Budget document and speech delivered by rookie Finance Minister Charles Sousa, he stresses how important it is to eliminate the deficit by 2017-18 saying that the "government believes eliminating the deficit is the single most important step we can take to grow the economy and create jobs."

If he actually believes that, one might expect that faster action would be called for including the full implementation of the Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Service, the Drummond Report. Alas barely 50% of the recommendations in that report have been implemented; and this Budget if passed may make it 60%. But many of the most cost effective recommendations involve shrinking or not growing the public service. These have already been dismissed. Almost 55 cents of every dollar the Ontario government spends is on the salaries, benefits and pensions of government employees.

This Budget actually grows the Ontario government; the deficit will be larger than last year. Debt continues to

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grow and accumulate; the cost of debt service keeps rising even as matured bonds roll over into the new lower interest rate environment, not a good sign. What will happen when interest rates actually rise, as they must, eventually? That rise will be coincident with more stresses on health services as the boomers age, and greater pension obligations as boomers retire. Balancing the budget in

four more years seems hopeless, and lets not forget the debt, which will continue to grow. Every child born today comes equipped with more than \$21, 000 in Ontario government debt. Ten years ago that number was \$11,000. What will it be in four years?

Nothing in this Budget demonstrates that Premier Wynne has reversed the

spendthrift ways of Dalton McGuinty; we just have a partial pause. Once present wage freezes have melted away in another year or so, the public sector unions will clamor for catch-up. Now is the time to address the primary problem of this government. Ontario Libertarians would first halt the continued growth of the government at present levels, no new spending, and no increases to salary, benefits or bonuses for any government employees. Ministries and agencies would be directed to find real cost saving measures immediately. Some ministries and agencies would be amalgamated with others, or have their responsibilities shifted to the free market in an orderly fashion. All corporate handouts would be stopped. The immediate goal would be to reduce government spending so that it falls well below the level of revenues.

Anything resembling that would have been a courageous start, which would certainly have led to a spring election.

MEDIA RELEASE — Health Care: Faster and Efficient

This is the third in a series of releases designed to introduce our new Campaign platform for 2013-14.

Ontario's healthcare professionals are second to none in the world, but they are burdened under a system that is broken. Past governments have created a centrally planned monopoly that inhibits new ideas and forbids competition while costs continue to balloon.

The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is not designed for better, faster service. Rather, it rations needed care, and as a result diminishes people's quality of life. People are forced to suffer much longer, burdening themselves and their families.

The Ontario Libertarian Party believes that healthcare should be the responsibility of individuals and their families in consultation with their chosen health care professionals. People in need of medical care should have as many options as possible for diagnostics and treatment. To make medical care more affordable, sustainable, and accessible in Ontario, competition and innovation must be introduced at every level.



Libertarians believe that in order to begin to fix the system, three remedies must be applied immediately.

First, change the funding model to hospitals; make each patient that comes to a hospital a cost benefit for that hospital, rather than a drain on resources given to that hospital as it is now. To increase their own funding,

hospitals will need to compete for patients by finding innovative ways to offer better care and service.

Second, patients that are able to afford it should be charged a nominal co-payment for each medical visit. This is partial recognition that healthcare is a scarce resource that is over utilized because it appears to be free to patients. For whatever reason, the government actually hides prices from patients so they have

no idea what services cost.

Third, legislation should be changed to legalize and allow private medical services in Ontario. This will reduce queues, wait-times, and provide people with more control of their own lives. It is incomprehensible that Ontarians

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MEDIA RELEASE—Budget: Lower & Simplified

This is the fifth in a series of releases designed to introduce our new Campaign platform for 2013-14.

The impact of taxation and spending by government affects each and every person in Ontario and across Canada. Many people consider taxes as a necessary evil to maintain our civil society. But today taxes and spending by government greatly exceed what is required to maintain order in a civil society.

According to the Fraser Institute, the total tax bill for an average Canadian family rose 1738% from 1961 to 2011, while the cost of living for the same family, which includes food, shelter, and clothing rose just 663%.

For each dollar removed in tax, a family or an individual has one less dollar of choice to spend on themselves and their own needs.

Was society less civil 50 years ago? Certainly not! Today governments are doing far more than necessary to maintain a civil society. To compound the problem, the present Ontario Liberal government, has borrowed and spent so heavily over the past 10 years that the resulting debt has caused Ontario's credit rating to be downgraded by two ratings agencies.

The Ontario Libertarian Party believes that government revenue is essential to maintain law and order in Ontario, which is the primary function of government. However, present and past governments have created a system where too many individual and family responsibilities have been usurped by government. The creation of new programs and the continuation of unnecessary old programs have resulted in political parties competing to buy the votes of lobby groups. Each program requires more taxation or borrowing while citizens and businesses have less money to make economic choices. It damages the real economy and threatens the financial well being of present and future generations. The massive debt could mean our children and their descendants will pay for the benefits

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bestowed on us, while those same benefits will not be available to them.

For Ontario Libertarians restricting the power to tax and spend is central to our goal of limiting government. To address that goal Libertarians would first halt the continued growth of the government at present levels, no new spending, and no increases to salary, benefits or bonuses for any government employees. Ministries and agencies

would be directed to find real cost saving measures immediately. Some ministries and agencies would be amalgamated with others, or have their responsibilities shifted to the

free market in an orderly fashion. Corporate handouts would be stopped and tax loopholes for corporations and individuals would be closed. The immediate goal is to reduce government spending so that it falls well below the level of revenues.

Once that has been achieved, Libertarians would reduce provincial income tax tier rates, as well as the HST, and gasoline taxes. Corporate taxes would be reduced, then eliminated, because those costs are passed on to consumers anyway. All those measures taken together would encourage investment and the creation of thousands of jobs in Ontario while letting people keep more of their earnings.

Longer term the size and spending of ministries and agencies would continue to be reined in, so that the need for revenues would be reduced. Eventually a flat tax, based on a fixed percentage of income would replace the income tax and remain until the debt was eliminated.

Ontario Libertarians believe in limiting spending to only core functions of government; defending life, liberty, and property. We expect the reduction in spending will allow substantial decreases in taxation. Citizens of Ontario should have as much personal and economic freedom as possible.

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Furthermore, commercial traffic does not use public transit, and the Metrolinx Plan concentrates only on commuters and not the movement of goods. All consumer goods reach their retail destinations by road-way, and the proposed 5-cent per litre fuel tax will increase the prices of all goods and hurt those most vulnerable and least able to afford price increases.

Many commentators in the media have said it's time to grow up, we are all residents of the same province and we must face the facts; if we want effective and accessible transit in the region, we'll have to pay for it. We, in the Ontario Libertarian Party agree. But in any household when a family wants a new priority it often cuts back in other expense areas to save for the new priority. Taxpayers do not have infinite ability to pay more and more. Ontario Libertarians recommend that

the government cut back on its grants and corporate welfare handouts. All it would take is a 1.6% reduction in the current \$127 billion budget to generate this year's \$2 billion for Metrolinx. If transit is a priority, find the savings.

Libertarians also prefer user pay. A provincial re-evaluation of road tolls should be made and any revenue generated should be dedicated to maintaining and building new roads while reducing overall taxes.

Finally, the idea that municipal and regional transit should be the sole responsibility of government should be abandoned entirely. It's high time that this monopoly be turned over to private competitive industry, so that consumers can choose affordable options for themselves, and taxpayers can be released from the obligation of paying for services they don't use.

MEDIA RELEASE—Jobs: Secure & Rewarding

This is the fourth in a series of releases designed to introduce our new Campaign platform for 2013-14.

One of the most enduring myths that politicians and governments perpetuate is their ability to create jobs in the economy. Indeed, governments do create government jobs, and some of those jobs are essential for protecting the rights of citizens. But every additional job created by government places a burden on the treasury, on the taxpayer, or worse requires additional government borrowing. Every government public sector job thus created makes it less likely that a private sector job is created. If it were true that governments could create jobs as implied by politicians, then why not hire all the unemployed and be rid of that problem? The simple reason is that governments do not create wealth. That only happens in the private sector. Governments can only redistribute wealth and then only because of their monopoly on force.

What governments should do is simply create the legal and judicial framework which allows the private sector to produce the wealth and as many jobs as the market requires.

The reality is that current and past governments in Ontario have created so much red tape for prospective employers and disincentives for employees that our economy is struggling to provide the ideal jobs for Ontarians. Unions with government granted privileges further aggravate the situation, creating barriers to employment and removing choices from citizens.

Ontario Libertarians believe that the best way for our economy to create jobs is to allow employers and potential employees to negotiate wages and benefits, independent of regulation. Governments should refrain from any form of interference in the creation of jobs, labour regulations, or giving special legal privileges to either unions or employers.

To begin to unravel the red tape and the disincentives that constrain employment, Ontario Libertarians would eliminate all legislation that restricts the free market, including how wages are set and what training is required for a job.

Libertarians recognize that unionism has played an important role historically in improving working conditions for employees in Ontario. Today government regulations and the bureaucracy around jobs have largely usurped that role.

"It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world." Thomas Jefferson

"When a new source of taxation is found it never means, in practice, that the old source is abandoned. It merely means that the politicians have two ways of milking the taxpayer where they had one before." H. L. Mencken

While unions are not inconsistent with free market economics, what is inconsistent are the special privileges given to unions and union shops by governments. Governments have negotiated with unions and created public sector monopolies; governments have granted massive corporate bailouts designed to curry the favour of the unions and their crony corporate bosses, and governments have legislated the ability of unions to block non-union members in bidding for jobs. Libertarians believe that unions can operate in a free market, but they should have no right to control labour within that market.



Where employees were once powerless against their employers, today unions are more than a match for the crony corporations and the government agencies that employ them. There are many instances in today's workplace where the power of unions, government agencies and crony corporatists work to the detriment of the economy and the people of Ontario. Libertarians will fight for the ordinary people of Ontario.

Over the longer term, Ontario Libertarians would eliminate licensing requirements and other impediments that interfere with job creation and that ultimately damage and distort the economy. Libertarians will strive to allow the free market to resolve the labour challenges of tomorrow.

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must travel to other countries to obtain timely care, especially when it could be available in their home province and they are willing to pay for it themselves.

In the longer term, Libertarians would remove the government endorsement of healthcare associations, thus allowing the creation of competitive associations of physicians and other healthcare practitioners. This would increase the number of physicians and other practitioners, which would result in more competition, more services, shorter wait times and lower prices. Competing associations would be more likely to ensure that its own members maintain high standards.

Libertarians would also allow independent, free market insurance plans to co-exist with OHIP, so that individuals and families may opt-out of what the government decides should be covered, and choose the level of insurance that best satisfies their needs.

According to the Fraser Institute, healthcare spending in Canada "is among the highest in the developed world, yet Canadians endure some of the longest waits for medical treatment." Since healthcare is a provincial responsibility, Ontario should be at the forefront of showing the rest of the country how it should be done.