

Party by Party fiscal platform/taxation highlights *(listed alphabetically)*

Green Party (leader = Mike Schreiner) Platform includes:

- Meet the promised upload of \$1.5 billion in social service and court security costs by 2018.
- Pledge not to download costs, or add new ones to Ontario's limited property tax base.
- Not opposed to looking at additional uploading where that service would be better served by it.
- Support a review of the Development Charges Act so that growth pays for itself without unsustainable burdens on property taxpayers.
- Provide \$150 million in refundable tax credits over three years for people living in rural and remote areas to have affordable Internet access.
- Invest an additional \$285 million in a fund for municipalities to make water and sewage infrastructure improvements.
- Provide \$1.6 billion over four years in refundable tax credits for home owners, tenants and businesses to invest in energy efficiency and building retrofits.
- Implement a \$10 per tonne price on carbon to provide market incentives for efficient use of resources and discourage greenhouse gas emissions. Every dollar raised in revenue would be returned to individuals and businesses through tax reductions, while \$100 million per year would go to refundable tax credits for seniors, low-income residents and individuals living in rural areas. The price would rise to \$15 per tonne over time to maintain revenue as greenhouse gas emissions decline.
- Negotiate agreements to purchase inexpensive hydroelectricity from neighbouring provinces and increase hydro generation in Ontario.

Liberal Party (leader = Dalton McGuinty) Platform includes:

- Continued promised upload of \$1.5 billion in social service and court security costs by 2018 (thus reducing the property tax burden)
- New program that would allow seniors to defer the increases on their property taxes for as long as they want to remain in their home. The definition of "home" is as yet unclear, and may be described as principle residence (only)?
- At MPAC, institute a 12-year inspection cycle, prioritize inspections based on the risk of under/over assessment and improve documentation. Ensure MPAC follows the highest standard in the conduct of its business
- Make the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund and the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Fund permanent, and introduce a South Western Economic Development Fund.

New Democratic Party (leader = Andrea Horwath) Platform includes:

- Continuing the municipal cost upload at promised \$1.5 billion in social service and court security costs by 2018
- Create a new three-year \$70 million (annual) fund to help municipalities especially with road and bridge repairs

- Remove the provincial portion (8%) of the HST from home heating bills at a cost of \$350 million annually.
- Remove the provincial portion of the HST from hydro bills, but not until 2015 when the Ontario clean energy benefit expires.
- Spend nearly \$1 billion over four years on energy-efficient retrofit programs, including a rebate of up to \$5,000 for home renovations, by putting nuclear refurbishment program on hold.
- Raise general corporate taxes to 14 per cent from the current 11.5 per cent, which will bring in \$6.6 billion over four years.

PC Party (leader = Tim Hudak) Platform includes:

- No commitment to continue uploaded costs from municipalities, thus increasing the property tax burden]
- Cut government spending by 2% (except for health care and education). [Since health care and education total $\frac{3}{4}$ of the budget, this suggests all other areas—such as transportation and the Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources—could anticipate cuts of 8%]
- Remove the 8% provincial portion of the HST from hydro bills and home heating and eliminate debt retirement charge from hydro bills at a cost of \$1.4 billion.
- End mandatory time-of-use pricing for electricity.
- Give all 444 municipalities a share of the provincial gas tax revenues, up from the current 89. (thus, decreasing the property tax burden - \$ amount , terms are unclear)
- Invest more than \$35 billion for new infrastructure, much of it in transit and transportation over first three years.
- Allow local governments in the north to develop Crown land, such as parcelling for cottage lots, and overhaul the forest tenure system.