

CHOICE IS YOUR

Liberal

A PLACE TO GROW

OUR LIBERAL PLAN FOR ONTARIO

Liberal

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**TOGETHER,
WE CAN MAKE
ONTARIO A PLACE
TO GROW.**

- STEVEN DEL DUCA



A MESSAGE FROM STEVEN DEL DUCA

The magic of Ontario is that progress has always been possible. Today, that's not always true. It used to be if you worked hard and played by the rules, Ontario would have your back. But supports haven't kept up with the times.

That's because the Ford Conservatives have the wrong priorities. Instead of building up supports, they make deep cuts. They side with billionaires and big box stores over workers and small businesses. They choose costly highways over our kids' schools. They scheme with developers and shut out communities. They back private health profits over public care. They always make the wrong choices.

Ontario can be a place to grow, but only if we make the right choices.

We need to rebuild what's always made Ontario strong. Education. Health care. Public services that support working families. They're all key to a better future and economic dignity for our families.

It's your choice. This is our plan. We can build a province that works as hard and cares as much as you do. Join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Del Duca'.

Steven Del Duca
Ontario Liberal Party Leader



OUR LIBERAL PLAN WILL MAKE ONTARIO



A Place to Grow Your Family

- Eliminate HST on more meals, funded by fair taxes
- Raise the minimum wage
- Build 1.5 million new homes and deliver rent control



A Place to Grow Older

- Transform senior care in Ontario by guaranteeing home care
- End for-profit long-term care
- Boost pensions by \$1,000 for seniors who need it



A Place to Grow Healthy

- Clear the surgical backlog and set maximum wait times
- Ensure access to a doctor or nurse practitioner within 24 hours
- Make more mental health help available



A Place to Grow Economic Dignity

- Give every worker access to benefits and 10 paid sick days
- Build to a four-day work week
- Eliminate corporate taxes for two years for small businesses hit hard by the pandemic



A Place to Grow Up

- Build and repair schools with \$10 billion funded by scrapping Highway 413
- Hire 10,000 more teachers for smaller class sizes
- Offer optional Grade 13 to give students a chance to catch up
- Reinvest in OSAP and eliminate interest on student loans



A Place to Grow Sustainably

- Cut transit fares to \$1 a ride everywhere in Ontario
- Cut Ontario's carbon pollution in half by 2030
- Expand the Greenbelt and provincial parks



A Place to Grow Together

- Raise disability and social assistance benefits
- Advance Indigenous reconciliation
- Ban handguns

Read our full platform at platform.ontarioliberal.ca

IF WE MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES, ONTARIO CAN GROW.

OUR LIBERAL PLAN

- ✓ Remove the HST from more meals
- ✓ Revolutionize senior care through universal home care guarantee
- ✓ Clear the surgery backlog for all of us
- ✓ Repair and rebuild schools
- ✓ New worker benefits and 10 paid sick days
- ✓ \$1 transit fares and cutting pollution in half
- ✓ Fight poverty
- ✓ Ban handguns

CONSERVATIVES

- ✗ Under-taxing the richest of the rich
- ✗ Unsafe nursing homes focused on profit, not care
- ✗ Conservative cuts to health care and more privatization
- ✗ Waste billions on highways in the Greenbelt
- ✗ Cuts to sick days and minimum wage
- ✗ Skyrocketing carbon emissions and rewards for polluters
- ✗ Cruel cuts to our most vulnerable
- ✗ Handguns on our streets



THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

The Ford Conservatives spent the last four years making all the wrong choices. We'll build a province that actually works for you.

We can choose soaring profits for mega-grocers and big box stores. Or we can make them pay their fair share to help lower the cost of food for families.

We can keep rewarding the richest 0.2%. Or we can ask them to join the fight against poverty and make sure no one gets left behind.

We can continue the sell-off of our public health care system while seniors suffer neglect in long-term care. Or we can heal the frontlines and help seniors age with dignity at home.

We can build Highway 413 over wetlands and farmland to save GTA commuters just 30 seconds per trip. Or we can invest in our kids and build safe schools across the province.

We can continue to play politics and reward the biggest polluters. Or we can take action now to create green jobs and keep Ontario beautiful for future generations.

We can keep dividing the people of Ontario up into winners or losers. Or we can come together to build an Ontario with room for everyone.



A PLACE TO GROW YOUR FAMILY

Save you money on meals

Food is getting more expensive, eating into your monthly budget. We'll go after the giant grocery stores driving up those costs and support Ontarians who make food. To lower your costs right away, we'll remove the provincial HST on prepared food under \$20 – like meals at restaurants or to-go counters. The plan will be fully funded by a 1% surtax on companies operating in Ontario whose profits exceed \$1 billion a year, and a 2% income tax increase for individuals on income earned over \$500,000 annually.

Raise the minimum wage

If you have a job in Ontario, you shouldn't struggle to meet your basic needs – especially if you're working full-time hours. One of the very first things the Ford Conservatives did was freeze the minimum wage at \$14 an hour. We'll increase the minimum wage to \$16 an hour and then develop a living wage that factors in the local cost of living in different regions of the province.

Build 1.5 million new homes

The average price of a home under the Ford Conservatives went up half a million dollars. One of the biggest reasons why housing costs are so high is because demand is much greater than supply. To meet this demand, we'll get 1.5 million new homes built in Ontario over the next 10 years – doubling the pace of building from the past decade. But it's not just about building more homes, it's also how these homes get built and used. We'll go after the rules and red-tape that are driving home costs and prices up – and we'll make it faster and more affordable to get new homes built where people want to live, such as unlocking more provincial land by burying electric transmissions lines and redeveloping underutilized strip malls and offices. We'll also introduce new taxes on vacant homes in urban areas and developers sitting on land.

Deliver province-wide rent control

The Ford Conservatives ended rent control to help their well-connected friends, making renters' lives unpredictable and less affordable each year. We'll prevent sudden rent hikes by reinstating rent control everywhere in Ontario – putting an end to the two-tiered rental market and providing much-needed stability to renters.



A PLACE TO GROW OLDER



Guarantee home care for everyone who needs it

In retirement, you want to live as long as possible in your own home close to friends, neighbours and family. We understand that. We'll guarantee that if you need health care professionals to come to your home, you'll get that care. We'll also increase financial support for caregivers – and we'll give you more money to pay for things like rails or grab bars to make living at home safer.

End for-profit long-term care

People were rightly horrified and disgusted at living conditions in Ontario's private long-term care homes during the pandemic – with people forced to endure neglect for “cost savings.” We can't let this keep happening, so we'll end for-profit long-term care as quickly as possible while creating or improving 58,000 not-for-profit long-term care spaces. To protect residents in the meantime, we'll improve conditions, inspect homes more often and go after abusive private care homes.

Boost seniors' pensions by \$1,000 more per year

As an older Ontarian, you've contributed so much to our province. But like a lot of Ontarians, higher living costs are making it harder for seniors on a fixed income to make ends meet. We'll help by increasing the Old Age Security top-up for eligible seniors by \$1,000 more per year. We'll also make sure more seniors qualify for this help by increasing the eligibility threshold to \$25,000 for single seniors and \$50,000 for couples.





A PLACE TO GROW HEALTHY

Clear the surgical backlog and set maximum wait times

If you're waiting for a surgery or diagnostic procedure, you're not alone. Millions have had their appointments delayed. While the Conservatives call on for-profit private hospitals to address these backlogs, we'll clear the waitlists with a \$1 billion investment in public healthcare – empowering hospitals to operate significantly above pre-pandemic volumes, including into evenings and weekends. We'll also establish maximum wait times for surgeries and return to pre-pandemic wait times by the end of 2022.

Make sure everyone has access to a family doctor

Everyone across Ontario should have access to a family doctor or nurse practitioner who can help guide and support them through health challenges. We'll increase the number of family doctors and nurse practitioners across Ontario, make the option for virtual visits permanent and universal when appropriate and fund more team-based primary care clinics, including Family Health Teams, Community Health Centres and Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics.

Make more mental health help available

The pandemic has deepened Ontario's mental health crisis and too many people are struggling without support. We'll train 3,000 new mental health and addictions professionals, hire 1,000 more professionals dedicated to ensuring no child is waiting for help, expand and reduce wait times for publicly-covered mental health and addiction care and have mental health responders available at 911 and in emergency rooms.



A PLACE TO GROW ECONOMIC DIGNITY



Give every worker access to benefits and 10 paid sick days

Around half of working people in Ontario don't have access to basic workplace benefits like prescription drugs, dental care, vision care, mental health care, parental leave and retirement savings. We'll create a package of high-quality, affordable benefits that everyone can use, including self-employed, gig, contract and creative workers. Employers without comparable benefits would be required to enroll their staff while offering employees the option to opt-out. As we navigate our way out of the pandemic, we'll also provide 10 paid, job-protected sick days for all workers. We'll also reintroduce a ban on employers making their workers produce a sick note in order to access the leave they need, and give businesses up to \$200 a day to compensate for the costs of workers taking more sick days.

Build to a four-day work week

During the pandemic, you showed remarkable flexibility and resolve in embracing new ways of doing work. Adopting a four-day work week would be another change, but one that experts say could boost your quality of life and work-life balance without a loss in productivity. We'll work with businesses and labour groups of all types to design and evaluate the model. If a four-day work week demonstrates potential in Ontario, people could have many more "Family Day Weekends" – extra time to invest in their wellbeing and spend with loved ones.

Eliminate corporate taxes for two years for small businesses hit hard by the pandemic

Small businesses are the heart of Ontario's economy, so they are central to our recovery plan. The Conservatives' inadequate business grants left too many businesses without help during the biggest disruption in a generation. We'll suspend corporate income tax for small businesses most impacted by the pandemic for 2022 and 2023 – with relief scaled to losses in revenues and eliminated entirely for businesses that lost more than 50% of revenues as a result of the pandemic. We'll also eliminate incorporation fees for new business start-ups and launch a one-stop 311-type service to help businesses navigate government supports.





A PLACE TO GROW UP

Scrap Highway 413 and build and repair schools with the savings

No matter where our kids grow up, they deserve a great education in a safe school. We'll invest \$10 billion more in building new schools across Ontario and making sure classrooms are safe and in good condition – including ventilation. To pay for this, we'll scrap the Ford Conservatives' misguided Highway 413 project that would shave just 30 seconds off of GTA commutes while paving over important wetlands and farmland.

Hire 10,000 teachers for smaller class sizes

Your kids have a lot of learning to catch up on because of the pandemic. They need their teachers' focus and attention more than ever – so they can not just teach, but reach them. While the Conservatives try to cut education funding and raise class sizes, we'll cap class sizes at 20 students in every grade across the province and end mandatory online learning. To enforce this cap, we'll hire more than 10,000 teachers, while adding one new special education worker to every school.

Offer an optional Grade 13 to help students catch up

The pandemic stole so much time and so many learning opportunities from high school students. Many want their high-school experience back. We'll create an option for all current high school students to take Grade 13 to make up for learning and credits where needed, as well as take new credits in mental health, financial literacy, taxes and more.

Reinvest in OSAP and eliminate interest on student loans

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) helps students pay for college and university, but the Ford Conservatives cut the program's budget by more than half – forcing thousands of students to take on more debt or leave school. We'll reverse these damaging cuts, giving significantly more grants that students never have to pay back. We'll also keep tuition costs from rising and eliminate interest so current and future student loans become easier to pay off, while increasing support for apprentices.



A PLACE TO GROW SUSTAINABLY



Cut fares to \$1 a ride for transit anywhere in Ontario

Transit ridership is still much lower than it was before the pandemic, so we'll cut public transit fares to \$1.00 per ride for one year and \$40 for monthly passes on all public transit in Ontario. This includes municipal, GO and Ontario Northland transit. This will help save you money and get an estimated 400,000 cars off the road each day.

Cut Ontario's carbon pollution in half by 2030

Two decades ago, more and more children developed asthma and other illnesses because of air pollution. Ontario Liberals responded by closing every coal plant in the province and putting a price on carbon pollution. Carbon pollution fell by 24% while asthma rates and smog days fell with it. After four years of the Conservatives, we're going in the wrong direction again. Now, we'll cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, creating green jobs, making electric vehicles more affordable and preparing our homes for climate change.

Expand the Greenbelt and create five provincial parks

You love Ontario's nature, and we need to protect it. We'll expand the Greenbelt and designate 30% of our land as protected areas by 2030. As part of this expansion, we'll add five new provincial parks across Ontario. To help restore our tree canopy and keep our air pristine, we'll plant 100 million trees a year over the next eight years, focused on restoring ecosystems and protecting drinking water.





A PLACE TO GROW TOGETHER

Raise disability and social assistance benefits

We'll bring back the basic income pilot to show the life-changing impacts of giving people consistent, reliable financial support. And as a first step, we'll immediately reverse the Conservatives' cuts to social assistance, increase Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates by 20% and let people keep more of their employment earnings.

Advance Indigenous reconciliation

We are committed to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action by working with and learning from Indigenous peoples. This includes increasing support for the option to learn First Nations languages and mandating the inclusion of the painful history of Canada's residential schools across the K-12 curriculum. We'll also invest in Indigenous-led mental health supports, child care, housing and infrastructure projects.

Ban handguns

You need to feel safe in your communities – and handguns kill people in Ontario more than any other type of firearm. We'll work with the federal government to ban the sale, possession, transport and storage of handguns and get these dangerous guns off our streets through a buy-back program, while we advocate for a national ban. We'll require all police training to contain de-escalation, anti-racism, cultural sensitivity and mental health. We'll also have more mental health workers ready to respond to emergency calls.



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**TOGETHER, WE’LL
BUILD A PROVINCE
THAT WORKS AS
HARD AND CARES
AS MUCH AS YOU DO.**

- STEVEN DEL DUCA



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