

The Choice Book



Guidance & Suggestions for
Ontario Libertarian Party Candidates

2013-2014 PLATFORM RELEASE H1

"Governments grow by removing our responsibilities - not by purposefully removing our freedoms. As governments grow, more tax revenue is required to fund new programs, which means people have less money available for themselves and their families. As a result, we gradually lose our economic and personal freedoms. Libertarians want to restore both to the people of Ontario. In order to do so, people need to decide what are the essential functions of government. Then we need to stop the further growth of government and reverse the process."

ALLEN SMALL, LEADER OF THE ONTARIO LIBERTARIAN PARTY, 2013

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

This document is a response to previous candidate's wishes for greater direction and advice during an election campaign. Many have found that libertarian principles and our own previous platform were insufficiently detailed or too vague for the short campaign period of an Ontario election. So, please think of this document as a playbook for the game of politics specifically geared to Ontario. Like any playbook, members of the team must know their positions so that the team appears unified and our message is consistent.

Discussions that created this document began in June 2012 at our Caucus meeting in Woodbridge Ontario. Additions and ideas were added by our membership online at the Wiki (<http://wiki.libertarian.on.ca>) over the course of several months, and a first written draft was presented at our AGM in Toronto November 2012. Many revisions were made subsequently. It should be recognized that political platforms are organic documents, so consider this a work-in-progress intended for use if there is an election campaign in the near future.

The intent of this document is to help realize our ultimate goal, which is to limit the size and scope of government and eliminate coercion. Each of us must be aware that to achieve that goal there needs to be a series of transitional steps, which must be accomplished in an orderly and peaceful fashion. Of course that is just one scenario on how things may unfold. But with that assumption, this document is meant to address the transitional steps, and the trick is to make each platform suggestion a step toward limited government with greater choice for citizens.

Each of the 5 platform positions (planks) has a brief explanation of the **Current Situation** from a libertarian viewpoint, plus the libertarian **Principle** that is our ultimate objective, and **Our Plan** if elected, presented in two parts:

1. A **short-term focus**, which may not look very libertarian but is intended to show what we (or another party) should do to transition from the present situation to one that provides more choice.
2. A **long-term focus**, which better exemplifies libertarian principles and is intended to show where we would like to be after some length of time.

Then there is also a section called **Guidance for Candidates**, which gives suggestions and ways to present our position on the given topic, followed by **Talking Points**, which provides content, case studies, implementation ideas, and issues to consider. It is all meant to keep our message consistent.

Each plank also has a **Relevant Legislation** section (which is by no means exhaustive) pointing to legislation, which is directly or indirectly applicable to the plank. Never forget that each and every regulation or privilege that affects citizens is legal only because there is legislation that makes it so. In order for us to change the situation in Ontario, we must become familiar with those laws and be able suggest how they should be altered or repealed. We encourage candidates to read and research as much as possible on any issue they feel passionate about.

The document you are currently reading is the internal version (for the Caucus) of our platform. The external version (for the public) is much shorter and only includes the **Current Situation, Principle, and Our Plan**.

The internal version also contains libertarian views on a variety of issues even though some are not covered under provincial jurisdiction. Many voters and even candidates are unaware of the distinction between Federal, Provincial, or Municipal areas of jurisdiction, so this document covers some of them in order to provide direction for our candidates. We expect this list to grow and be refined along with the document itself.

While most sections of this document should not change very much over time, **Our Plan** may change slightly from year-to-year if progress is made toward limited government and greater choice.

Your comments and suggestions for changes to future versions of this document are welcome in the Discussion (upper left tab) section of our Wiki (<http://wiki.libertarian.on.ca>).

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REVISION HISTORY

This is the first controlled internal document for the Ontario Libertarian Party. This document is scheduled to be revised on a quarterly basis. If you currently possess a version of this document which is past its expiry, please seek the most up to date copy of this document through contacting the Ontario Libertarian Party at www.libertarian.on.ca.

Date	Release Number	Revision Summary	Expiry
January 17 th , 2013	2013.H1	Initial release coincident with the 2013-2014 platform	June 16 th , 2013.

Healthcare

Current Situation

Having access to the best healthcare allows you and your family to live life to the fullest. However, past governments have created a centrally planned monopoly that tramples new ideas and competition, while costs continue to balloon. The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is not designed for better, faster service. OHIP often delays needed care to citizens, and diminishes people's quality of life. People are forced to suffer much longer, burdening themselves and their families.

Principle

Ontario Libertarians believe that healthcare should be the responsibility of individuals and their families in consultation with their chosen physicians. 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, competition and innovation must be introduced at every level. To do this, government must be removed from the equation as much as possible.

Our Plan

Short Term Focus: Better Service

- Improve the present funding model for OHIP
 - Let funding follow the patient → Shorten hospital wait times
- Add a nominal co-payment for medical visits
- Legalize private alternatives
 - New research → New diagnostic procedures

Long Term Focus: Superior Coverage

- Remove the government endorsements of healthcare associations
 - More doctors, more competition, more services, shorter lines, and lower prices
- Transition OHIP to private medical insurance plans
 - Individuals have the choice as to their level of insurance

Facts

"Healthcare spending more than doubled, from \$1700 to \$4100, between 1975 and 2009."

The amount Canadians spend on health care in 1997 dollars has increased every year between 1975 and 2009 from \$39.7 billion to \$137.3 billion or a more than doubling of per capita spending from \$1,715 to \$4089.

- pg 119, National Health Expenditure Trends, Canadian Institute for Health Information

“Canada spends 36% more [per person, on healthcare, than OECD average] and we have 23% less doctors [per person] and 50% less hospital beds [per person].”

Canada also ranks above the OECD average in terms of health spending per capita, with spending of 4445 USD in 2010 (adjusted for purchasing power parity), compared with an OECD average of 3268 USD. Health spending per capita in Canada remains nonetheless much lower than in the United States (which spent 8233 USD per capita in 2010), as well as in Norway, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Despite the relatively high level of health expenditure in Canada, there are fewer physicians per capita than in most other OECD countries, although their numbers have been growing in recent years. In 2010, Canada had 2.4 physicians per 1000 population, well below the OECD average of 3.1.

The number of hospital beds for curative care in Canada was 1.7 per 1000 population in 2009, half of the OECD average (3.4 beds per 1 000 population). As in most OECD countries, the number of hospital beds per capita in Canada has fallen over time. This decline has coincided with a reduction of average length of stays in hospitals and an increase in the number of surgical procedures performed on a same-day (or ambulatory) basis.

- OECD Health Data 2012, How Does Canada Compare

“Australia’s government cover’s less of their population’s overall healthcare bills. Higher life expectancy. Lower infant mortality. More doctors [per person]. More nurses [per person].”

Australia and the US were the only countries whose government spent less. Australia is the only country to outrank the four major units of measure. Their system coexists with a private health system. Medicare is funded partly by a 1.5% income tax levy (with exceptions for low-income earners), but mostly out of general revenue. An additional levy of 1% is imposed on high-income earners without private health insurance.

- Healthcare in Canada, Wikipedia, 2012

Guidance for Candidates

The so-called “free” universal Healthcare system in Canada is worn like a badge by many Canadians as one of the things that distinguish us from our American cousins. Canadians fear that changing the system will make it difficult to access when needed. Of course it already is, but citizens must be assured that an organized transition to a system that offers choice is possible. For those reasons and others, the Canadian political class is very reluctant to tamper with Healthcare at any time.

Canadians also fear the American system because it is viewed as being unregulated and with high cost. Indeed the American system is the most expensive system in the world, but it is replete with government regulations and other interventions that distort prices. Don't bother defending the American system; doing so is counterproductive to our cause. It's well known Canadians will use the American system as a lifeline when it is needed, because it does offer greater choice and speed, unlike our system.

More and more Canadians are aware that our present system is financially unsustainable, as is pointed out in this recent article (<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/unfunded-liability-of-canadas-health-care-system.pdf>) from the Fraser Institute, so change is inevitable.

Short Term Focus: Better Service

- Improve the present funding model for OHIP
 - Let funding follow the patient → Shorten hospital wait times
- Add a nominal co-payment for medical visits
- Legalize private alternatives
 - New research → New diagnostic procedures

There is NO political support in Ontario for “blowing-up” the current OHIP system. In order to get people to seriously talk about change, they must believe that a transition is possible.

Our short-term focus, change the funding model, may improve the situation making it a little more competitive because hospitals would compete for patients rather than trying to preserve funds (pg. 22 of <http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/fraserforum-spring-2012-special-issue.pdf>).

Using that approach, patients that come to hospitals would be viewed as a benefit to the hospital, bringing more funding rather than as a drain on resources that are given to the hospital as they are now viewed.

A co-payment for each medical visit is also partial recognition that people will over utilize scarce resources that are underpriced. There is precedent for this in our current system, point out the ambulance co-payment (currently \$45) acts as a slight deterrent. If ambulance rides were free, they would be abused in much the same way as the rest of the system is already.

Adding private alternatives for diagnosis and care to the system immediately would provide more choice and competition and relieve queues in the public system. Those that want faster service could have it available for small additional cost from a private clinic that accepts OHIP plus and added charge. No need to travel to the States.

Long Term Focus: Superior Coverage

- Remove the government endorsements of healthcare associations
 - More doctors, more competition, more services, shorter lines, and lower prices
- Transition OHIP to private medical insurance plans
 - Individuals have the choice as to their level of insurance

Untangling the legislation that gives certain groups privileges will be difficult because of their ability to lobby and buy votes. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is just one example of a health practitioner's association; these create blurry lines between private and government goals. The government often has granted legislated privileges to these associations, which end up corrupted, compromised, or ineffective in delivering results. Often times, it leads to governments expanding to solve their own self-created problems. Why should there just be one doctors association to accredit physicians? Why not competing associations?

In other countries basic insurance also includes vision care, dental care, and prescription drugs (not available in our system). In those countries, insurance is administered by existing private companies and are not-for-profit at the basic level. OHIP can be transitioned to existing private companies like Manulife, Sunlife etc. that already have systems in place to handle the needs of their clients. Individuals and families may choose the company they wish, many may already have plans with those companies for other forms of insurance. Having levels of insurance, above basic plan coverage is what we encourage → competitive higher levels of insurance for those who choose better coverage or coverage to suit their needs – and it would be offered for profit.

Individuals should also be free to choose from whatever new medical discoveries are made that could benefit them, even if they are not yet deemed “safe” by the authorities. The idea that someone would not be allowed to receive a possible a cure or treatment for cancer (or anything else) because of government safety regulations is paradoxical, especially if the patient is terminally ill. How would safety regulations, help a terminally ill patient?

Talking Points

The medical care system is improperly incentivized to minimize cost, rather than provide excellent care.

The system is open to abuse by some physicians who give patients short shrift, so that they may see more patients because they are paid per patient. Patients too, have no discernible way to determine

the value of their treatment because they are never billed so they have no incentive to complain for poor service because they may go see another physician for “free” with no clue about cost.

Patients may abuse the system for minor ailments because there is no discernible price. Furthermore, some patients may “abuse” themselves by engaging in poor health care: eating poorly or engaging in risky behaviours because there is no fee for medical care that they can base behavioural judgements on.

The existing system also largely ignores major aspects of medical care: vision care, dental care and prescription drug insurance.

Recommendations made by the Fraser Institute based on tweaking the existing system and investigating other universal medical care models should be examined.

Case Study #1

Switzerland does not have socialized medicine but government regulates the insurance industry and defines what health services must be offered.

Patients can choose any physician and there’s no wait to see specialists or have surgery.

Depending on the deductible, the monthly premium for this basic package averages about \$300 for adults, plus some co-pays, but it can’t exceed 8% of personal income; if it does, the government subsidizes the cost.

Roughly one-third of Swiss households — mainly single-parent families and immigrants — get some form of subsidy

Insurers can’t turn anyone down or delay coverage due to age, medical history, or health risks. Companies can make money on the optional supplemental coverage that includes alternative medicine and private hospital rooms. The Swiss system is more comprehensive with no wait-time problems, yet costs about the same as ours.

Other European models should be viewed; all of them offer a mix of public and private providers.

Relevant Legislation

Canada Health Act

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-6/FullText.html>

The Canada Health Act: Overview and Options

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/LOP/ResearchPublications/944-e.htm>

Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 Ontario

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_91r18_e.htm

Ontario Bill 46, Excellent Care for All Act, 2010

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2326

Local Health System Integration (LHIN) Ontario

<http://www.lhins.on.ca/legislation.aspx>

Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) Ontario

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/contact/ccac/>

Other Notes, Rhetoric & Suggestions

Canada/Ontario is one of the only jurisdictions in the world that does not allow access to private healthcare providers, people have no choice but to leave the country to expand their options and more and more people will agree that is totally unacceptable. Every other Western nation allows a mix of private and government provided healthcare options, why not here?

Healthcare choice is a tough nut for us to crack, but none of the other parties make this an issue, that's why we must, just to get the conversation going in the right direction.

- The Ontario Ambulance co-payment <- Why does this exist?
(<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/ohip/amb.aspx>)
- Since healthcare is a personal/family responsibility, people should be encouraged to save money for future problems using a Health Savings Account (HSA)
- Before national healthcare existed, people were taxed less → Families had less of a tax burden, and therefore it was easier to volunteer to help neighbours
- The profit motive and Healthcare: <http://karenselick.com/GM101110.html>
- Read more about a possible future without government involvement:
http://www.fee.org/the_freeman/detail/health-care-a-future-free-market-alternative/#ixzz2GGI1jWMq
- If you smoke, drink too much, have a dangerous job, don't exercise or play risky sports
→ Your neighbor should not have to cover your healthcare bill
- Don't say we'll privatize healthcare → We will let the market provide alternatives
- If you get into a discussion that gets heated or if you don't know enough about the topic:
 - Stop after the other person finishes talking.
 - "I think I might be communicating poorly" (even if you aren't)
 - "I'm not an expert, on this particular topic – but neither are most other politicians. Politicians shouldn't be making these decisions. Parents/Consumers/Individuals should be."

Improve funding model see Page 22:

<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/fraserforum-spring-2012-special-issue.pdf>

Cost of healthcare in Canada: <http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/price-of-public-healthcare-insurance-2012.pdf>

Sustainability of healthcare:

<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/unfunded-liability-of-canadas-health-care-system.pdf.pdf>

Doctor from British Columbia who fights for a “mixed” system: <http://www.brianday.ca/index.html>

What about the poor? See Case Study #1 below.

Budget

Current Situation

Government revenue is a necessary part of maintaining a legal system in Ontario, which is a primary function of government. However, past governments have created a system where too many individual responsibilities have been removed. By creating new programs and continuing to fund unnecessary old programs, politicians are competing to buy your vote. Each program requires more taxation or borrowing. As taxes rise, or government borrowing increases, citizens and businesses have less money to make economic choices. It damages the real economy. Accumulated government debt and current taxation levels threaten the financial well being of present and future generations.

Principle

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.

Our Plan

Short Term Focus: Less Waste

- Stop the growth of government expenditures at current levels
 - No increases in salary, benefits or bonuses to government employees
- Implement cost-saving measures for ministries and agencies
- Shift the responsibilities of certain ministries and agencies to the private sector
 - Sell the LCBO → Use the proceeds to pay down debt
- Reduce provincial income tax tier rates, HST and gasoline tax.
 - Lower income taxes for everybody.
 - Lower the price of almost everything.
 - Lower price of gas.
- Close tax loopholes

Long Term Focus: Greater Prosperity

- Sole flat income tax designed to pay for core government functions: defending life, liberty & property.
 - Constant percentage of income
- End all other taxes
 - End HST → No more hassle & confusion for businesses
 - End corporate taxes → More efficient and competitive economy

Facts

"There are over 909 tax forms applicable to residents of Ontario.
That's 908 too many."

Just count them. Some favorites include:

- T2154 Application of Designated Forgiven Debt Under Section 80
- T2094 Registered Charities: Application to Reduce Disbursement Quota
- T2SCH554 Ontario Computer Animation and Special Effects Tax Credit (2009 and later tax years)
- T2SCH560 Ontario Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit (2009 and later tax years)

For a full list of forms, write to Jeffrey.mclarty@gmail.com or contact the Canada Revenue Agency.

- Canada Revenue Agency

"In the last tax year, CRA processed 36.4M returns. Population of Canada is 34.5M."

Kids don't file returns, that means we're processing far more than a return per person

- Canada Revenue Agency Annual Report to Parliament 2010-2011 & World Bank 2011/Google

"In the last tax year, CRA spent \$7.3B employing 8,570 employees, collecting \$237B in revenue."

3% of tax dollars was spent just to make the tax system work.

\$211 per man, woman & child, is spent just collecting taxes.

The average family of four spend \$27,478 in taxes. That's everything, income, hst, gas, etc.

- Where your tax dollars go, 2010-2011 Fiscal Year

"CRA spent \$2.5B, in a single year, to "make compliance easier" and make "non-compliance more difficult".

That's a couple hundred bucks, per family. The Ontario Libertarian party could save Ontario's share of that bill, with one simple idea: throw out all the forms, close all the loopholes, and collect tax a single flat percentage of income.

Guidance for Candidates

Short Term Focus: Less Waste

- Stop the growth of government expenditures at current levels
 - No increases in salary, benefits or bonuses to government employees

This means no spending increases, none, no bonuses, no pay increases, spending continues at present levels until costs saving measures are implemented.

- Implement cost-saving measures for ministries and agencies

We would order ALL ministries and agencies to find cost cutting measures, and if they couldn't voluntarily find them, we would find them. This may mean selling off agencies and amalgamating or eliminating ministries (see Case Study below).

Candidates should **NOT** discuss the magnitudes of cuts to programs. Our Party does not yet have the analytical capacity to make the proper calculations about the size of cuts. Claiming 20% cuts, or 5% cuts, quickly turns the debate into "Is that the right amount of cut?" and that's not our point. Our point is that "Cuts in spending are needed, and we need more information to make sound short-term budget decisions."

- Shift the responsibilities of certain ministries and agencies to the private sector
 - Sell the LCBO → Use the proceeds to pay down debt

We're trying to avoid using the word "privatize," playing with words. Have fun with that.

- Reduce provincial income tax tier rates, HST and gasoline tax.
 - Lower income taxes for everybody.
 - Lower the price of almost everything.
 - Lower price of gas.

Again, don't commit to how much taxes will drop, you will likely come out sounding dumb and uninformed if you give a specific number. Just point out that would need expert accounting help to look at the entire situation before we commit to an amount, but never forget our goal is to return economic freedom as quickly as possible.

- Close Tax Loopholes

There are 909 tax forms, probably 909,000 tax loopholes. We'd close as many as we could, as quickly as we could, while simplifying the tax code. Of course "loopholes" are a way to avoid tax, so for some tax may increase once the loophole is closed. But overall there will be a decrease.

Long Term Focus: Greater Prosperity

- Sole flat income tax designed to pay for core government functions: defending life, liberty & property.
 - Constant percentage of income

If anybody asks specifically, inform them that we are for a flat-RATE income tax, however note that this is still a wealth-distribution concept. A true flat tax would imply that we would charge everybody the same exact dollar value (those with low income would be exempt). This has great savings in administration benefits, however Canadians are not ready to hear ideas like this, just yet.

- End all other taxes
 - End HST → No more hassle & confusion for businesses
 - End corporate taxes → More efficient and competitive economy

Libertarians love to debate the merits of different forms of taxation. We are experimenting by saying we would stick with that single flat income tax rate. The “progressive tax rate” that we have “enjoyed” in Canada for many years, has been proven to lead a class-warfare ideology that doesn't work and is in fact, a recipe for failure. It's ironic that communist countries (Russia and China) have lower or flat taxes currently; they know that low taxes grow the economy and keep them competitive. In order for our voice to start sounding like a choir, we need to sing the same tune.

Talking Points

What is wrong with taxes?

Taxes assume that the government is better equipped to spend money than the individual it taxes. Every person knows of examples where government money was not well spent. Logically, we are in a situation where we can curb spending by the government without having a negative impact on anything that it provides right now. If there were competition in the services that it provides, government would have to become more efficient (nobody has ever argued that government is the most efficient at providing anything). In an ideal society, all money that the government needs would be contributed voluntarily and joyfully by its citizens. If citizens are not happy with paying taxes, they probably don't see the value that the government is providing for their tax money. Since this is a position that most people can agree with, let's start out work here. As long as we see improvement, we know that we're on the right path.

Governments grow by removing our responsibilities not by purposefully removing our freedoms. As governments grow, they require tax revenue to fund new programs, which means people have less and less discretionary income – one of the most important freedoms we have lost and are still losing is our economic freedom. Libertarians want to restore economic freedom to the people of Ontario.

There are currently too many services provided by government that can be handled well in the private sector. Eliminating some of the government ministries and agencies that the private sector can better be done without tax dollars.

Case Study

The State of Washington stopped government spending on tourism in June 2011, and a private alliance of resorts, hotels, restaurateurs, and anyone else with a vested interest in tourism, came forward and formed the Washington Tourism Alliance to immediately fill the gap. Suddenly the public expense of an entire government department was shifted over to the private sector. Even former government employees with expertise in tourism are paid by the alliance.

<http://watourismalliance.com/aboutwta/>

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/08/07/1774054/states-new-approach-to-tourism.html>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/07/01/us-washington-tourism-idUSTRE7606N020110701>

Relevant Legislation

Auditor General Act

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90a35_e.htm

Drummond Report on Public Sector Compensation

<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/reformcommission/>

Bill 55, Strong Action for Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2012

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2600

Other Notes, Rhetoric & Suggestions

One way to approach the issue of Budget and spending is from the personal or family level. When families accumulate debt over long periods of time, saving money for the future is impossible. No parent wants to leave his or her children with unpaid debt. Parents know they must rein in spending and live within their means or else. Why should governments be any different?

How would a libertarian government rein in spending?

- Postpone any current proposed tax increases
- Freeze government spending at current levels eliminate bonuses to managers etc.
- Stop hiring new staff for all ministries and agencies, stop any new program spending
- Sell off agencies like LCBO, OLG etc.

- Don't use obscure metaphors, eg. "the government is a terrorist" → You sound like tin-foil hat wearing nut.
- Don't use inflammatory language, eg. "taxes are theft" → You sound like a cheap tin-foil hat wearing nut.
- Balanced budgets are not paramount → Deficits and surpluses will naturally occur, regardless of scale and scope of government.
- Government debt is not bad → Debt is a free-market idea. The alternative is money printing, which causes inflation.
- Fiscal Policy is how the government spends money
- Monetary Policy is how the government creates money
- HST is designed to be paid when value is added in the supply chain. → Most HST paid by businesses is offset by collections, and is a huge burden if you operate a business
- "Buy Canadian Made" ideas are not libertarian ideas → Protectionism is inefficient and generates economic losses.
- Only Nunavut has lower provincial income tax rates than Ontario
- What would you cut? → Ministry of Tourism, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, or maybe one of the two agencies where one is encouraging fishing, and the other one is protecting fish. Or, any one of the other 630 agencies.
- Ontario Health Care Premium is additional tax on top of provincial income tax → McGuinty didn't "raise" taxes, he added tax.
- If you get into a discussion that gets heated or if you don't know enough about the topic:
 - Stop after the other person finishes talking.
 - "I think I might be communicating poorly" (even if you aren't)
 - "I'm not an expert, on this particular topic – but neither are most other politicians. Politicians shouldn't be making these decisions. Parents/Consumers/Individuals should be."

Education

Current Situation

In today's economy a great education is essential. However, past governments have created a system where teachers have no incentive to improve student outcomes and costs are rising too fast. A powerful inter-locking monopoly of government officials, school boards, and teachers' unions has more control over children's education than do the parents. Today's Ontario Ministry of Education is producing mediocre results at unsustainable costs, with no accountability to you and your children.

Principle

Ontario Libertarians believe education is the responsibility of the parents and the families of children. Parents should be free to choose the school or program that they believe best suits the needs of their children, at the most effective price. Libertarians would eliminate the government-mandated monopolies involved in education. To make education more affordable and effective, competition and innovation must be introduced, which will allow a choice-based system to flourish.

Our Plan

Short Term Focus: More Choice

- Directed-Tax choice for any school
 - Parents choose school → Dollars follow students
- Tax credits for parents that home school children
- Liberate Catholic schools
 - Treat all religions equally
- Outsource behind-the-scenes educational services

Long Term Focus: Direct Accountability

- Liberate all public schools
 - Accept students from any neighbourhood → Eliminate the need for large school boards
- Stop bureaucrats from interference in education
 - More options and innovation to curricula
 - Improved salary system for teachers
 - Improved schedules for parents & children

Facts

“The cost to send a child to public school for a year is up 79% since 2003.”

In 2003, the provincial average for total spent per student was \$7,790. In 2011 it was \$13,996, per student. The number of teachers employed in Ontario, climbed 4.5%, between 2003 and 2006. From 122K to 127.5K. The data series stopped being tracked after 2006.

- Society for Quality Education, accessed Oct 2012

“School boards in Ontario had racked up \$3.2B in long term debt by 2003. By 2011, long term debt stood at \$7.8B.”

Short term debt also more than doubled. This is unsustainable.

- Society for Quality Education, accessed Oct 2012

“In 2004, school boards reported fundraising initiatives of \$183M. By 2011, it was \$589M.

The 2004, is likely understated, because school boards were newly reporting these figures. But still. Are these school boards running schools? Or are they running charities? Something is broken.

- Society for Quality Education, accessed Oct 2012

Guidance for Candidates

Short Term Focus: More Choice

- Directed-Tax choice for any school
 - Parents choose school → Dollars follow students

This is the basic voucher system, however feedback has indicated that word voucher has a negative connotation. This specific idea, infers that we would give the parents the choice of which school they send their child to, and then 100% of the bill associated with teaching a student would go to that one school. Charter school? They get the money. Public school? They get the money. It would immediately improve many dynamics associated with education for the better.

- Tax credits for parents that home school children

Homeschooling is just another option which provides greater choice for parents. When you want a new car, computer, or dinner – do you make it yourself, or does the government make it for you? The

logic is that those who know how to teach their kids better than the government school system, would do so, and the ones who couldn't, wouldn't. Just like those who can't cook – go out for dinner.

- Liberate Catholic schools
 - Treat all religions equally

This is an experiment in both timing and communications. Here, we use the word “Liberate” which is synonymous with privatize. We’re giving them, the freedom to teach and operate how they want, without secular constraints. The timing experiment questions if the separation of church and state in Ontario is something that voters are ready to hear. We think that if framed correctly, the question becomes “How come Catholics get special treatment, compared to other religions?” If a Muslim wants to create a private school, they compete with the other private schools. However, Catholics enjoy the support of our tax dollars.

- Outsource behind-the-scenes educational services

Transportation for public schooling is compromised by school boards who aren’t making choices with their own capital. Other services required to operate the buildings, maintenance, supply chains, human resources, etc. for making the school system work are in the same position as transportation is – compromised. Getting more free market philosophies into current school operations is a step in the libertarian direction.

Long Term Focus: Direct Accountability

- Liberate all public schools
 - Accept students from any neighbourhood → Eliminate the need for large school boards

Again, see the point made in the short term plan about “Liberating” Catholic schools. By Liberate, we mean, privatize.

- Stop bureaucrats from interference in education
 - More options and innovation to curricula
 - Improved salary system for teachers
 - Improved schedules for parents & children

Any conversation about innovation or curriculums, quickly point out that politicians and school boards can’t possibly be experts at everything. Explicitly say, “Cognitive development of children is not an area where decision makers can possibly know enough to make correct across-the-board rulings”.

Talking Points

We think parents should have the right to choose what schools their children attend WITHOUT having to pay twice, now parents pay taxes and if they send their children to a non-government (private) school they have to pay for that in addition to their taxes – twice.

The system is geared to grow and sustain itself and teachers through their unions are incentivised to protect their jobs. The powerful inter-locking monopoly of the teachers' unions, the school boards, the faculties of education, ministry officials, and other vested interests must be broken.

Free market (use that term instead of "private" which sounds exclusive) schools may or may not have higher fees, so that parents will need to spend more money to get their children into an expensive private school. However, in locations where (non exclusive) private schools were introduced who didn't require a parental "top-up", some interesting things have happened.

1. Free market schools got incentives to prove that they were INDEED better than public schools.
2. Government (better than "public") schools got incentives to prove that they were able to provide a quality education that was INDEED as good as (if not better) than a local free market school.

This has happened in New Zealand. Standard testing showed that government schools took only 18 months to match the test results of free market schools. Something that had not happened in the decades before the voucher system was introduced.

Why not direct the parent's tax money to the school of their choice like the parents at Catholic Separate Schools already do?

Specific ideas from SQE: Here is the text of a letter that SQE is sending out to leading Ontario politicians Nov. 16/12.

For the sake of future generations, we need to deal with Ontario's massive deficit. And, of course, to cut the deficit, we will need to cut government waste, and that includes cutting the wasteful practices so prevalent in our education system. The Drummond Report, for instance, recommended cancelling **all-day kindergarten** and **removing caps on class sizes**. These are good ideas and should be implemented, but there are other areas where we can cut costs and at the same time improve student learning.

That's why I am writing. My group, the Society for Quality Education, has identified several ways in which our educational system can be made more cost efficient and better for students. For instance, the following agencies should be eliminated or curtailed:

Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat (LNS) This expense is worse than useless; the secretariat's activities are ideologically biased and they only depress student achievement in Ontario.

Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) A pawn of the teachers' unions, this agency is almost totally worthless.

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) The EQAO's tests are far too expensive and they provide meagre information of questionable validity. Plus their results are reported so late they lose any value they might have possessed in the first place. Existing standardized tests would yield far more

comprehensive and valid information in a timely fashion for a fraction of the cost.

Ontario Curriculum Centre (OCC) This agency oversees the Trillium List, a list of textbooks approved for use in Ontario classrooms. The Trillium List includes only textbooks that meet the ideological bias of its administrators: for example, there are no phonetic readers or sequential mathematics texts on the list. Ontario children would be far better off if the Trillium List (and the Ontario Curriculum Centre) did not exist.

The government might also consider abolishing Ontario's 72 **school boards**. With a total administrative cost in the neighbourhood of \$650 million annually, they accomplish almost nothing – and tend to get in the way of the classroom teachers. If anything, school boards are an expensive anachronism left over from the pre-information age. Most of the few functions that school boards are still carrying out (successive governments have gradually stripped them of their duties) can be shifted to individual schools, leaving the province with the responsibility of funding, goal setting, regulation, and evaluation. The devolution to individual schools of the responsibility of hiring and remunerating staff, by the way, would remove the need for province-wide bargaining with the teachers' unions.

Another option is to reduce the expense of Ontario's 13 **faculties of education**, especially given that most if not all of them are indoctrinating their students in the same flawed ideology that already dominates the Ontario educational landscape. If the government were to authorize alternative teacher training, including private institutions, it would not only save money but open up the possibility that better teacher training would become available to prospective teachers.

Lastly, there's one way to save the government money and to improve parent satisfaction and to improve student achievement. I am talking about **tuition tax credits/school vouchers** for independent schools.

At present, the Ontario government spends more than \$12,000 per student on primary and elementary education. If the government chose to offer a tuition tax credit/school voucher of \$6,000 to independent school students, it would save about \$6,000 per student. Of course, the government would lose money on the approximately 50,000 students who currently attend independent schools, but the breakeven point would be reached when 100,000 students were enrolled in independent schools – something that would probably happen by the second year of the program at the latest – and after that the tuition tax credits/school vouchers would save money. And, in a win-win scenario, the new independent school students would be generally better off, plus an exodus of students from publicly-funded schools would galvanize those schools into improving their service.

The bottom line is the Society for Quality Education believes huge savings can be realized in the education portfolio – while at the same time improving student achievement. We would be pleased to provide fuller information on request.

More info: http://www.societyforqualityeducation.org/what_we_believe.html

From SQE: What are charter schools?

Answer: A school board does not supervise Charter schools, which are free and open to all eligible students, but rather they have their own supervisory boards unlike conventional government schools. Charter schools are inspected to ensure that they fulfill the conditions set out in their charters. These schools are a choice-based innovation that is proving very popular with parents and teachers; they improve the performance of their own students and provide competition that results in the improved performance of the students in nearby public schools. Charter schools provide significant accountability to parents and students. They survive only if they fulfill their charter conditions to provide excellent (and sometimes special) education and if they attract sufficient numbers of students to provide ongoing financial viability.

From SQE: What are education vouchers and tax credits?

Answer: Education vouchers and education tax credits are two different ways to enable low-income parents to consider private schools. When education vouchers or tax credits are offered, public schools continue to be funded from the public purse, and private schools begin also to be funded from the public purse, sometimes in whole and sometimes in part. Currently, in Ontario, only a limited number of families are able to choose the school that is best for their child. Apart from the obvious unfairness, this two-tier policy reduces social mobility and works to perpetuate class differences. Vouchers and tax credits are equalizing measures that level the educational playing field.

Relevant Legislation

Education Act - Ontario

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90e02_e.htm

Ontario College Of Teachers Act, 1996

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2010/elaws_src_regs_r10176_e.htm

Teaching Profession Act - Canada

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90t02_e.htm

Ontario Labour Relations Act, 1995

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_95l01_e.htm

Ontario Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act, 1993

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_93c38_e.htm

Canada Labour Code (R.S.C., 1985, c. L-2)

Other Notes, Rhetoric & Suggestions

Parents Choose the School & Tax Dollars Follow ➔ Parental costs are defrayed in whole or in part

Treat All Schools like Separate Catholic Schools, no special treatment for a single religion

Schools should reward best teaching practices without union interference

In Ontario, the Education Act stipulates how the unions, school boards, the College of Teachers and the Ministry, control the education monopoly. The quickest and easiest thing to do is avoid as much of that as possible is to use the concept of Charter Schools (<http://www.ourkids.net/blog/canada-charter-schools-5919/>), Its something we can begin push for right now, even though the education monopoly will fight it.

Its time to face facts, tinkering with the system as it is will not make it work any better. Each school today is already organized as a community unto itself, the disappearance of the external trappings of Board and Ministry would hardly be noticed.

Charter schools are almost exclusively found in Alberta (over 17 years now). They are publicly funded, autonomous schools (no external Board), which are formed to “provide innovative or enhanced education programs that improve the acquisition of student skills, attitudes, and knowledge in some measurable way.” (Alberta Education, 2010)

Charter schools are Ministry inspected to ensure that they fulfill the conditions set out in their charters. These schools are a choice-based innovation that is proving very popular with parents and teachers; they improve the performance of their own students and provide competition that results in the improved performance of the students in nearby public schools. Charter schools provide significant accountability to parents and students. They survive only if they fulfill their charter conditions to provide excellent (and sometimes special needs) education and if they attract sufficient numbers of students to provide ongoing financial viability.

School boards will not be required, voluntary community or Charter School boards should be able to administer local schools, hire teachers, and staff. This would encourage competition, innovation and create best practices, something that does not exist today. Initially parents should be able to direct their tax payments to the community school of their choice. Eventually parents, local businesses, and philanthropic organizations would support local schools.

- Don't use the term 'Voucher' System ➔ Sounds American
- Stay away from predicting what directed-tax choices would do ➔ 'May or may not' be higher priced, 'May or may not' be higher quality. This is the point – the system will build what parents think is best for their children.

- Limitless Potential - Students will be able to push the upper bound of their own abilities, rather than hit a ceiling associated with available resources.
- Infinite Options - Parents will be able to choose from a menu of options to suit their priorities and preferences for what they believe is best for their children.
- Responsive Education - The supply and demand associated with skills the economy needs will become more flexible and competitive internationally.
- Innovative Classrooms - New methods of teach will be explored leveraging new technology as soon as possible.
- Sustainable Costs - The operators of schools will need to compete for business, which will keep costs low for parents.
- If you get into a discussion that gets heated or if you don't know enough about the topic:
 - Stop after the other person finishes talking.
 - "I think I might be communicating poorly" (even if you aren't)
 - "I'm not an expert, on this particular topic – but neither are most other politicians. Politicians shouldn't be making these decisions. Parents/Consumers/Individuals should be."

Lots of information about existing Boards and schools here: <http://sunshineonschools.ca/default.aspx>

Current Situation

Electrical energy is essential to a modern society. In Ontario, electric energy is supplied to customers primarily through government-mandated monopolies. Past governments have built an unsustainable, subsidized, high cost, and inefficient mix of cherry picked solutions for power generation and distribution. As a result, citizens are forced to pay higher prices for power, with no alternative options.

Principle

Ontario Libertarians believe that people should be free to invest in power generation and energy transmission facilities, without coercive incentives from the government. Introducing competition to the energy industry is the key to sustainability. The competitive and innovative free market should be allowed to select the most affordable and environmentally friendly method of electrical generation. Individuals, or groups of individuals, should be free to choose their electricity supplier.

Our Plan

Short Term Focus: More Sustainable

- Stop subsidizing all forms of electrical generation
 - Cancel FIT & MicroFIT → Market will build efficient alternatives
- Stop risky energy programs
 - Let the market test unproven technologies
- Deregulate power production and transmission methods

Long Term Focus: Lower Bills

- Undo regulated price plan program → Let electricity prices float
- End corporate handouts & bailouts
 - Do not renew contracts & programs → No more exporting cheap power, and buying expensive power.
- Privatize all energy production
 - Sell Ontario Power Generation → Reduce debt & risk

Facts

“The government’s own report, documents an 11% spending pattern gap, and a 287% expensive program gap, between the market rate

and the price you pay. This is two angles of government manipulating higher energy prices.”

The forecast of the simple average market price for 12 months from November 1, 2012 is \$20.65/MWh (2.065cents per kWh). After accounting for the consumption pattern of RPP consumers, the average market price for electricity used by RPP consumers is forecast to be \$23.06/ MWh (2.306 cents per kWh).

The combined effect of the other components of the RPP supply cost is expected to increase this per kilowatt-hour price. The collective impact of the other components is summarized by the Global Adjustment. The Global Adjustment reflects the impact of the NUG contract costs, which are above market prices, the regulated prices for OPG’s prescribed base load nuclear and hydroelectric generating facilities, which may be above or below market prices, and the cost of supply contracts held by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), most of which are above market prices. The cost associated with CDM initiatives implemented by the OPA is also included, as are amounts approved by the Board in respect of Board-approved CDM programs undertaken by electricity distributors. The Global Adjustment also reflects payments made to OPG’s Nanticoke and Lambton facilities, under an agreement with the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation (OEFC), related to the CO2 limits that began to apply to OPG effective January 1, 2009. The forecast net impact of the Global Adjustment is to increase the average RPP supply cost by \$59.36/MWh (5.936 cents per kWh).

- Regulated Price Plan Price Report, November 1, 2012 to October 31, 2013, Ontario Energy Board

Guidance for Candidates

Short Term Focus: More Sustainable

- Stop subsidizing all forms of electrical generation
 - Cancel FIT & MicroFIT → Market will build efficient alternatives

FIT & MicroFIT are programs which pay people above market rates for energy produced from alternative sources. The government has included protectionist rules against the equipment used in the installation. The government is locking itself into 20 year contracts for electrical generation. There are several technical issues, and several market pricing issues, all of which libertarians are against. The main technical issue is that production is being installed in locations irrespective of where the demand is located, so power needs to be transmitted over long distances before it is consumed. There are extreme losses in this transmission method, because the grid is so old. Of course, the market issues include pricing problems that lead to higher energy bills or taxes.

- Stop risky energy programs
 - Let the market test unproven technologies

The risks in any new technology implemented by the government are unknowable. With new

technology, it often looks good on paper, academics can conjecture the pros and cons, however the true costs are only realized after time has passed. Experimentation with tax dollars is unethical, since people have different levels of risk, they shouldn't be forced to participate in risky energy bets.

- Deregulate power production and transmission methods

There are technology specific rules which inhibit suppliers from adding production to the grid in an efficient manner. The Libertarian Party would clean this up, by deregulating things of this nature.

Long Term Focus: Lower Bills

- Undo regulated price plan program → Let electricity prices float

The Regulated Plan Program is the product of government involved in some areas of energy production, so they need to put boards in place to set caps and floors on electricity prices. This means electricity is not produced when it should be, and consumed when it shouldn't be, or vice versa. These impacts are unknowable, because the supply and demand of the electricity market is so fast paced.

- End corporate handouts & bailouts
 - Do not renew contracts & programs → No more exporting cheap power, and buying expensive power.

By handouts and bailout, we're referring to subsidies and tax credits which corrupt the supply and demand picture of electricity. AC power cannot be stored efficiently, therefore the province needs to constantly be selling off wasted production, or buying unsupplied capacity, all with out-of-province counter parties.

- Privatize all energy production
 - Sell Ontario Power Generation → Reduce debt & risk

Ontario Power Generation is struggling to run their business profitably because of the high amount of technical staff required to operate a large electrical generation plant. They need to compete on labour, but they cannot set their own prices for power, so the Ontario Government ends up with losses on their income statement.

Talking Points

What happens when monopolies are dismantled? Look at what has happened to your telephone bill over the years; since different providers were allowed to compete, your bill has decreased. Now look at the cost of your electrical bill where there is no competition. The cost of electricity has risen, and will continue to rise. Even so, the price Ontarians pay for electric power does not even cover the cost of generation

Private companies should be free to invest in power generation and energy transmission facilities. Customers (possibly at the condominium/subdivision level) should be free to choose any supplier. Municipalities should not be able to grant exclusive charters to any company. (See References below for an article in Reason magazine about competing electricity suppliers.)

We're not out to repeal the Green Energy Act. The law is poorly named; people believe it's good because it is ostensibly about saving the planet. The evidence that the planet is in danger is highly conjectural. Putting in place expensive solutions for a problem that is non-existent is foolish. Pollution and other problems that are caused electrical generation, are infringements on the rights of individuals and should be dealt with in criminal or civil courts.

Relevant Legislation

Electricity Act, 1998

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_98e15_e.htm

Bill 150, Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?BillID=2145

Other Notes, Rhetoric & Suggestions

- All energy initiatives the government involves itself in, you can call "risky" → many risks might be unknown or unknowable. Nobody can know what they don't know.
- Government shouldn't 'bet' on picking winners/losers for technology → mal-investment is the only word you need to know.
- If you get into a discussion that gets heated or if you don't know enough about the topic:
 - Stop after the other person finishes talking.
 - "I think I might be communicating poorly" (even if you aren't)
 - "I'm not an expert, on this particular topic – but neither are most other politicians. Politicians shouldn't be making these decisions. Parents/Consumers/Individuals should be."

Current Situation

Jobs provide income and emotional fulfilment. However, past governments have created so much red tape for employers and disincentives for employees that our economy is struggling to provide the ideal jobs for Canadians. Unions with government granted privileges further aggravate the situation, creating barriers to employment and removing choices from citizens.

Principle

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 unions.

Our Plan

Short Term Focus: Extra Opportunity

- Eliminate barriers to job-creation
 - Wages & training requirements are determined by the employee & employer
- Allow any qualified worker to compete for union jobs
 - Benefits employers, employees and taxpayers
- Correct legislation to reflect employer-employee contract rights

Long Term Focus: More Productivity

- Improve regulatory environment
 - Reduce interference → Eliminate licensing, funding support, insurance requirements which interfere with job creation and damage the economy.
- Allow free market forces to solve labour challenges

Facts

"You make 45% more, for the same job, if you do what you do for the government of Ontario instead of a private company."

The Fraser institutted looked at 25 occupations in 2011, ranging from Senior Management roles to trades, to arts to clerical. On average, there was a 45% raw wage premium. Protective services were the highest, with a 124% premium between public and private sector wages. There was only one

occupation where the table was turned, and the private sector paid more, that was in sales. This makes sense, since on average it is likely that the sales deals in the private sector include more responsibility as more is at stake.

- Table 1, Ontario, average hourly wages for 25 occupations, The solution to reining in public sector compensation, Labour Force Survey, April 2011, Fraser Institute

Guidance for Candidates

Short Term Focus: Extra Opportunity

- Eliminate barriers to job-creation
 - Wages & training requirements are determined by the employee & employer

By “Wages & Training” we’re referring to things like the minimum wage, and other impediments that some people view as positive, however, libertarians should unanimously reject them. The economics behind minimum wage are such that it causes higher unemployment by making the jobs that pay less than minimum wage illegal. So those who have the least experience or skills never get hired and never get a chance to gain experience except as welfare cases.

- Allow any qualified worker to compete for union jobs
 - Benefits employers, employees and taxpayers

Avoid the term “right-to-work.” Its used in the United States and it will reflexively be answered with “race-to-the-bottom.” It also involves more legislation, and we would prefer to repeal existing legislation that grants privileges to unions or employers. Government intervention in the union space creates dynamics where either the specific employee gets an advantage over their non-unionized peers and the taxpayer, or a disadvantage because the number of jobs is reduced from non-economic pay levels.

- Correct legislation to reflect employer-employee contract rights

The key here is to look at a job, as the property of the employer. An employer pays for a service to be completed, if for some reason the service is not being completed, the employer’s property rights (or the agreed contract) have been trampled. So, allowing this to occur, because of government legislation, is wrong. Similarly employers should not be given special privileges over their employees.

Since all wages are prices (of a job), the employer and employee should be free to negotiate a wage/price. Employees may choose to have unions represent them as a group, no problem. But unions should not be given special privileges that force employers to deal with them outside of a contract. Jobs do not belong to unions.

Long Term Focus: More Productivity

- Improve regulatory environment
 - Reduce interference → Eliminate licensing, funding support, insurance

requirements which interfere with job creation and damage the economy.

Depending on the industry, be it dental hygienists, financial advisors, or real estate agents, the barriers to provide similar services are higher than they need to be as a result of decades of lobbying and propaganda to create legislation in those areas. Often this is rolled into schemes for politicians to buy the votes of self-interested groups. This is all unethical behaviour, and the majority of the time it is not governed by free-market thinking.

- Allow free market forces to solve labour challenges

We don't have the right answers for which unions should get which rights, or which employers should get which rights. Neither do other politicians. Free markets are fantastic at discovering better mechanisms to employ more people at sustainable price and risk levels.

Talking Points

It may be time to treat public sector unions differently because they may be part of a government monopoly when they strike for wages or benefits, it's time to release the stranglehold of public sector unions plus government monopolies on jobs in government. This includes doctors, nurses, teachers, and other service workers: OPSEU in the LCBO for example. Since taxpayers are forced to pay the salaries of public sector employees at all times, workers should be on the job at all times.

In general, workers should be able to join and contribute fees to a union or not. Employers should have the right to choose their employees based on whatever criteria they please. Workers should be able to freely associate and form collective bargaining units (unions) and approach employers with terms. Employers should be free to bargain with the union or other workers who are NOT members of the union. Unions and union members do not own the jobs they have, the jobs are the property of the employer/owner of the business. Right-to-work, which is currently becoming popular in the States, for workers means the freedom to choose to belong to a union or not, within a free market. BUT, we would prefer to avoid more legislation. We would rather, repeal laws that give unions privileges, and we don't need to create more laws around employment, we need less regulation.

Example 1

Allow Competitive contracts where the public unions and non-union workers can compete for government construction jobs – This will reduce costs for government and thus taxpayers.

We also believe that public sector unions that operate monopoly government departments should not be allowed to strike.

Example 2

The Liberal 2 year Teacher and Public sector wage freeze is not going to work, they will demand catch-up 2 yrs from now. The Drummond Report on public sector compensation (see below)

recommended against short-term wage freezes, the Liberals ignored it, and the PC's aren't any different. A step in the right direction would be to acknowledge that Teachers and all public sector workers cannot really bargain in good faith. How can they if their union controls who works and who doesn't work?

But there is no point in blaming the public sector workers, or the Unions. The Federal government granted to unions the privilege of collecting dues more than 60 years ago (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rand_formula). Changing this type of thinking is going to be extremely difficult because it has legal precedent.

In the short term Libertarians might support allowing non-union workers to compete for union jobs. Because monopoly public sector unions cannot TRULY bargain in a competitive environment, their right to strike should be restricted and their compensation should be based on comparable private sector compensation. We would also immediately try to improve the regulatory environment by phasing out occupational-licensure regulations.

Libertarians believe that the best way governments can help create jobs is to remove obstacles to full employment. That means allowing employers the freedom to pay their employees at market rates, that encourage the sustainability of businesses while allowing employees the opportunity for on-the-job-training and advancement up the economic ladder. Currently, Minimum Wage laws cut off the bottom rungs of the economic ladder for those lacking the skills to earn higher wages or the capital to pay for the licensing requirements.

Relevant Legislation

Drummond Report on Public Sector Compensation

<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/reformcommission/>

Ontario Labour Relations Act, 1995

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_95l01_e.htm

Protecting Public Services Act, 2012<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/savings/protecting.html>

Workers' Compensation Act

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/repealedstatutes/english/elaws_rep_statutes_90w11_e.htm

Canada Trade Unions Act (R.S.C., 1985, c. T-14)

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/T-14/index.html>

Canada Labour Code (R.S.C., 1985, c. L-2)

Other Notes, Rhetoric & Suggestions

- Paying a 45% premium in the public sector, takes high quality people away from the private sector → Making Canada less competitive globally
- If somebody is pro-minimum wage → they likely don't understand supply and demand. You should point out that it cuts off people who have no skills or experience from ever gaining experience by starting at a low paying job. Employers would rather not hire, than pay minimum wage etc.
- Don't try to forecast/predict → the market will find the right balance/price/equilibrium
- Don't confuse facts with opinions. State either one clearly.
- If somebody believes corporations will take advantage of workers → If they need to do that to stay in business one of two things are likely to happen
 - They'll go out of business when another company offers more money
 - Those people will have an incentive to seek training or leave after only a few months of training.
- The reason we have lines at retail stores is because employers can't afford one more cashier. Many people leave, when lines are too long. These businesses lose sales because of this, and they make their loyal customers wait. → Think about that the next time you're in check-out line.
- If you get into a discussion that gets heated or if you don't know enough about the topic:
 - Stop after the other person finishes talking.
 - "I think I might be communicating poorly" (even if you aren't)
 - "I'm not an expert, on this particular topic – but neither are most other politicians. Politicians shouldn't be making these decisions. Parents/Consumers/Individuals should be."

Policy Positions

The included policy positions is not intended to be an exhaustive list covering every area in which government is involved. If that were true, we would still be writing. Instead, it contain some direction on a number of issues, other than our planks, many are not provincial matters but because the electorate may not be aware of how government “powers” are divided, our active candidates should be.

Where an official position has not been stated, candidates should deal with these and other issues using the libertarian principles that try to limit government involvement, increase choice, defend life, liberty and property, and eliminate coercion.

It should also be pointed out that government adds a cost to services by virtue of the fact that many of the services have no competition.

Restorative justice rather than rehabilitative justice

Changes Libertarians would make include:

Convicted Criminals must make restitution to their victims or victims' families

Promote private arbitration between criminal and victim for property crimes. Restitution would have to be paid to the victim by the criminal who would also pay for the process. This would free our courts for more serious cases.

Elimination of "victimless" crimes such as seat belt laws, where no one is hurt, nor property lost or damaged. Free our police officers to fight violent crime.

Have juries set sentences within the limits prescribed in law. This will ensure the guilty take responsibility for their actions.

Remove government-backed legal aid programs, which encourage criminals to use the system to the limit on the off chance they will go free. Criminals should pay for their defense, not the taxpayers.

Free the police from the multitude of politically correct commissions looking over their shoulder. Police should be controlled by their local municipal councils who pay the bills, not political appointees of the provincial government.

Enforce existing laws that deal with violent crime rather than adding more "designer legislation" based on victim gender or race.

Make government and its employees subject to the same laws as everyone else without exception.

Choice and competition are the things that Ontario taxpayers need to get value for the money they are forced to spend.

Libertarians believe that the interests of the people of Ontario are best served when there are competitive forces determining the costs of the goods and services that government now provides through various monopolies. Things like health care, education, electrical power, the sale of alcoholic beverages and more.

"But," you might ask, "Who will take care of education (or health care or culture or the roads)?"

But you probably don't ask who would take care of providing shoes, or fresh vegetables and food, clothing etc. That's because we still believe these are not functions of government.

Internet

A Federal issue, the Ontario Libertarian Party believes the internet is one of the greatest uncorrupted resources on our planet today. We will do everything in our power to defend present freedoms from any restrictive proposed regulations.

Copyright challenges become an issue, when information is treated like property. The Ontario Libertarian party believes information should be treated like any other property, thus any accusations of theft be handled like similar to other thefts. The legal system already has a court system in place to process thieves. Other stakeholders like internet service providers, search engines, and hosting companies should not be forced into any burden, or worse held accountable, for any trespass resulting in copyright infringement claims. The internet should stay free, and unencumbered.

A QUESTION OF TIMING

Abortion

The issue of abortion is controversial among libertarians because of disagreement as to when individual life begins. On one side, some libertarians believe life begins at conception, therefore the government should defend a fetus. On the other side, some libertarians believe life begins at birth, therefore the choice resides with the family. While our members are divided, provincially it's irrelevant. In Canada, this is a Federal issue. Currently there is no law, as it should be, government should not be involved. The policy of the Ontario Libertarian Party is that this issue is the personal and individual concern of the woman, her family, and her physician. Public funds (OHIP) should not be used to defray costs for procedures. That should be the extent to which candidates respond to the question, anything said beyond that is the opinion of the Candidate and should be acknowledged as such.

FREE NEGOTIATION IS BEST

Employment or Pay Equity

This legislation is based on the unproven assumption that the hiring and pay scales of visible minorities are the direct result of racist and sexist attitudes of all employers.

Their implementation has required the creation of expensive bureaucracies, which now dictate who shall be given preference in hiring and what they shall be paid. This is really legislated discrimination. The farcical nature of the legislation now sees many claiming some form of mental disability or ancient link to one of the "disadvantaged" groups to get a job or promotion.

Newspaper articles have noted that the agencies responsible for implementing these programs do not follow their own hiring guidelines. Similarly, teachers' unions with a predominantly female membership are adamant in saying they have no intention of following the law.

Libertarians believe these schemes interfere with the right of individuals to negotiate a private employment contract without government interference. They are unjust, unfair, expensive, and represent more red tape that sends jobs to other jurisdictions. They don't work. Libertarians would see them scrapped.

OPEN WITHOUT VOLUNTARY SUPPORT

Immigration

Generally a federal issue, but Libertarians believe in open borders for people who wish to immigrate to Canada. Immigrants must pass security tests and be willing to support our legal system, our freedoms and our liberties. Immigrants must be able to support themselves or access charitable organizations or family help in Canada without relying on any government assistance during their settlement period.

SELL IT & GET OUT OF REGULATING IT

Ontario Lottery & Gaming

The following background information was extracted from CAMH (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) (<http://www.camh.ca/en/hospital/Pages/home.aspx>) to try and clarify how Ontario has arrived at its present situation with respect to control over gambling. The issue has both Federal and Provincial entanglements.

<http://www.problemgambling.ca/EN/ResourcesForProfessionals/Pages/GamblingAContext.aspx>

"In the 1950's, casinos opened across the border in the United States and an increasing number of Canadians visited US casinos for entertainment. After 1963 all provinces were familiar with legalized low-stakes charity bingo, commonly held in church basements and offered by other social organizations such as the Lion Clubs and Canadian Legion groups. From 1960 to 1969, a review of gambling by the Joint Committee of the House of Commons resulted in the enactment of section 190 of the Criminal Code. Section 190 had a pivotal impact on gambling with the following changes:

- federal, provincial and territorial governments are permitted to manage lotteries (including games of chance such as slot machines)
- provinces and territories are granted full licensing authority for gambling operations
- charitable, religious, and agricultural fairs are permitted to conduct lotteries
- provincial authorities have final discretion in determining what constitutes a charity organization.

The first government lottery by the federal government was held in 1970 to fund the 1976 Montreal Olympics, followed by the first charitable casino in Edmonton in 1969. Manitoba opened the first provincially operated casino, claiming health care as its motivation (Mandel & Doelen, 1999). Casinos in Quebec and Ontario came next, with the Crystal Casino (1993) and Casino Windsor (1994). As gambling expanded, financial returns grew and conflicts between provinces and between federal and provincial jurisdictions arose. As a result, several large regional lottery corporations, including Lotto Canada, were established to manage large lottery events, decreasing legal disputes and competition for lottery sales. In 1985, Bill C-81 was passed, marking the federal government's withdrawal from all gambling activity. In exchange, the provinces would pay the federal government \$18 million a year through the Interprovincial Lottery Corporation."

Libertarians favour the elimination of laws that interfere with private consensual acts such as gambling. Governments should not be involved in gambling or running gambling businesses or any business. OLG is an agency that Libertarians would sell off, even though many will cry that it is a net revenue source for the province.

JUXTAPOSED TO TRESPASSING

Human Rights Commissions

The idea of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en>) seems contrary to good sense. If our Constitution and Charter already protect our rights, why is there a need for another level of protection, especially one as arbitrary as this?

The Ontario Human Rights Code says everyone has equal rights and opportunities without discrimination for employment, accommodation, goods, services and facilities, contracts and membership in vocational associations and trade unions.

The Ontario Human Rights Code contains provisions that are anti-discriminatory. Individuals can place a complaint with the OHRC if they are discriminated or harassed because of

1. race
2. ancestry
3. place of origin
4. colour
5. ethnic origin
6. citizenship
7. creed (religion)
8. sex (including pregnancy)
9. sexual orientation
10. disability
11. age (18 and over, 16 and over in occupancy of accommodation)
12. marital status (including same sex partners)
13. family status

14. receipt of public assistance (in accommodation only)
15. record of offences (in employment only)
16. gender identity
17. gender expression

Libertarians do not advocate discrimination of any kind. However, individual business owners may have their own very good reasons for discriminating against individuals for any number of those 17 points. The OHRC effectively removes the right of property from a business owner by forcing them to comply with the code or to create some sort of lie to avoid prosecution. The OHRC would advocate that a discriminatory act, a preference, is best corrected by a violation of the real property rights of an owner.

The fundamental rights are life, liberty and property. Being discriminated against is not a violation of any of those, and can be best equated with the rules of trespass.

The injunction “no trespassing” is not a violation of any person’s rights. It is an affirmation of property rights. A Libertarian government would eliminate the OHRC.

YOUR BODY, YOUR RULES

Prostitution

Like gambling, prostitution was originally controlled federally (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/LOP/ResearchPublications/prb0330-e.htm#federal>) but because of a recent series of constitutional challenges things are changing. From Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prostitution_in_Canada#Canadian_Criminal_Code_C-46:

“There is a general agreement that the [status quo](#) of prostitution in Canada is problematic, but there is no consensus on what should be done. There is an [ideological](#) disagreement between those who want to see prostitution eliminated, generally because they view it either as an exploitative or unacceptable part of society, and those who view prostitution as a transaction between consenting adults and advocate [decriminalization](#).” Libertarians are in the latter group favouring the elimination of laws that interfere with private consensual acts such as prostitution.

EXPIRY DATES ARE GOOD

Sunset Clauses

Legislation should be written such that it will expire at a future date. This should be particularly true of intrusive legislation (which should not be enacted in the first place), where privileges are granted to groups or individual etc. Adding a sunset clause forces the legislature to re-examine the legislation in question and in the light of a new situation. All such previous legislation should have this rule

appended. In this way rules are reduced and the legislature has something to do other than think up new rules.

EXPIRY DATES ARE GOOD

Statutory Holiday Shopping

Sunday shopping was once banned in Ontario. This excerpt was taken from Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunday_shopping#Ontario) an example of how quickly things can change:

"After the demise of the Lord's Day Act, the Retail Business Holidays Act of Ontario still prohibited most stores from opening on Sundays. However, there were many exceptions to these rules (for example, gas stations, convenience stores, tourist areas). Many store owners who opposed the law decided to open their stores on Sundays, knowing they were breaking the law. Some, such as [Marc Emery](#), were jailed for doing so.

In June 1990, the Supreme Court of Ontario found the act to be unconstitutional. As a result, Ontario had nine months of open-wide Sunday shopping, until the [Ontario Court of Appeal](#)'s reversal of the decision in March 1991.

However, public opposition to Sunday closing continued to rise. Bowing to public pressure, the [Rae government](#) amended the Retail Business Holidays Act in June 1992 to permit Sunday shopping in Ontario."

This should be an issue left to local municipalities, but generally libertarians view the legal operation of a business of any sort to be up to the owners of said business. Employees should be allowed the option of working or not, again, strictly between employees and employers.

<http://www.cp24.com/news/committee-votes-to-allow-victoria-day-shopping-1.1029519#ixzz2CgFjhSn>

ALLOWED TO FORM, NOT BECOME SPECIAL

Unions

Libertarians believe that people should be able to freely associate in work related unions for the purposes of securing better wages, benefits or working conditions by non-coercive means in a free market.

Unionism has played an important role historically in improving working conditions for workers etc. Unions are NOT inconsistent with free market economics.

What is inconsistent with free market economics are the special privileges given to unions by governments, the monopolies created, the sweetheart deals that could only come about by coercion, and the legislated ability of unions to block non-union members in bidding for jobs etc. We believe that unions can operate in a free market, BUT they have no right to control labour within that market.

Unfortunately, there are both Federal and Provincial laws that make this issue very complicated.

Canada Labour Code (R.S.C., 1985, c. L-2) <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/L-2/>

Canada Trade Unions Act (R.S.C., 1985, c. T-14) <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/T-14/index.html>

Ontario Labour Relations Act, 1995 http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_95l01_e.htm

While the current popular American idea of “right-to-work” legislation sounds attractive to libertarians, it means adding new laws to correct existing laws. We would advocate removing existing laws that provide privileges to either employees or employers.

OPTIONS ARE GOOD

Recall of an MPP or a Bill

Recall is the best way to ensure real accountability of elected representatives between elections. If an elected MPP should turn out to be corrupt, dishonest, or a liability to constituents in any profound way, it is only right that voters have the opportunity to recall that MPP and choose a replacement.

Similarly if a new law proves to be unpopular, or in any way detrimental to the negative rights of individuals, citizens should be able to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and demand the bill be repealed or set in motion the possibility of a referendum for repeal.

ALLOWED TO FORM, NOT BECOME SPECIAL

Conspiracy Theories

Of course, Libertarian candidates are free to hold their own personal opinions and views on any number of issues. But in order to be a candidate and a member of the Caucus each person must sign this pledge: “I will not advocate anything inconsistent with the Ontario Libertarian Party Statement of Principles.” http://libertarian.on.ca/sites/libertarian.on.ca.d6/files/Membership_App_form.pdf

The party does not represent/advocate/support/recognize any so called conspiracy theories, and candidates must not infer that they represent the party while advocating their own personal views on these issues.

Austrian economist and libertarian Steve Horwitz writing on the subject of CONSPIRACY THEORIES put it this way, "there is a more fundamental problem with a classical liberal's embracing most conspiracy theories. Ultimately, believing that a small group of evil people are manipulating economic and social processes for their own ends concedes to defenders of government economic planning that controlling and manipulating the economy is in fact possible! In other words, conspiracy theories are a form of socialism. If international bankers really are using the fed to manipulate the economy to enrich themselves, or if politicians and bureaucrats are using the welfare system to undermine the family or to impoverish African-Americans, then using government to achieve fairly specific ends is apparently possible."

BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER, NOT THE GOVERNMENT

Government Grants for the Arts

Historically artists of all kinds have had difficulty in gaining traction in their chosen field and thus have had to rely on the kindness of patrons: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patronage#Arts>. But that kind of patronage was generally bestowed on worthy artists (as determined by the patrons). Today governments at all levels have taken on this task; even though there are many corporate entities that are willing to fulfil this niche voluntarily (with tax benefits). In fact what happens is both corporations and governments are involved in many situations.

Because governments have been encouraged (by lobby groups) to take on this role using public tax dollars, artists of questionable talent have chosen to advantage themselves of this benefit. Art has suffered, and money is wasted. Here is the view of one of our own Caucus members Rod Rojas on this issue: <http://mises.org/daily/4790/Whats-Wrong-with-Contemporary-Classical>

Libertarians would not support arts funding, whether for the production of motion pictures in Ontario, or any other person or entity.

FOCUS ON VICTIMS

Crime Prevention

While violent crime rates in Canada are unchanged or dropping, sensational media coverage of high profile cases has caused politicians to climb on an anti-crime bandwagon. Many of the changes suggested are outside Ontario's jurisdiction so talk is as far as their suggestions will go.

Libertarians believe that criminals have to take personal responsibility for their actions. Blaming "society", lack of jobs or poverty is a convenient excuse that enables the guilty to escape accountability.

Based on today's welfare rolls, if poverty was the cause of crime, ten percent of Ontario's population would be criminals! We don't need more laws, we need enforcement of what we have! Changes Libertarians would make include:

Promote private arbitration between criminal and victim for property crimes. Restitution would have to be paid to the victim by the criminal who would also pay for the process. This would free our courts for more serious cases.

- Elimination of "victimless" crimes such as seat belt laws where no one is hurt nor property lost or damaged. Free our police officers to fight violent crime.
- Have juries set sentences within the limits prescribed in law. This will ensure the guilty take responsibility for their actions.
- Remove government-backed legal aid programmes which encourage criminals to use the system to the limit on the off-chance they will go free. Criminals should pay for their defence, not the taxpayers.
- Free the police from the multitude of politically-correct commissions looking over their shoulder. Police should be controlled by their local municipal councils who pay the bills, not political appointees of the provincial government.
- Enforce existing laws that deal with violent crime rather than adding more "designer legislation" based on victim gender or race.

LEGAL & CONTROLLED

Cannabis & Recreational Drugs

Right now, controlling the use of cannabis/marijuana and other recreational drugs is consuming police and legal resources, funding violent crimes, being sold in dangerous environments while destroying the careers of users.

Our Plan

The Ontario Libertarian party acknowledges that making marijuana controlled like tobacco, and taxed like any other product, has sufficient benefit for the majority of stakeholders, and acknowledges that in the short term, the population may not be ready for a decriminalized and unregulated situation.

This is even truer about other drugs. But there is plenty of evidence that suggests decriminalization of all drugs would be beneficial to all concerned, Portugal is a good example:

<http://www.thefix.com/content/decrim-nation-portugal-ten-years-later>

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/erikkain/2011/07/05/ten-years-after-decriminalization-drug-abuse-down-by-half-in-portugal/>

Libertarians would consider the voluntary individual use of any recreational drug a personal decision, and certainly not a crime.

FREE SPEECH

Censorship

Generally, censorship is a federal issue: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Censorship_in_Canada

Libertarians do not support any form of government enabled censorship of any kind. This is one of the most popular ideas, where voters often side with libertarian principles.

CREATES INEFFICIENCIES & WASTE

Corporate Welfare

Libertarians are often mistakenly lumped together with “conservatives” because they both allegedly favour free markets and business. The truth is that conservatives tend to favour corporations by extending them special favours when they are in power. That’s why corporations are major donors to conservative political campaigns – tit for tat.

Corporations fear competition; libertarians relish it, that reason alone should tell you that libertarians have no great love of corporations. Too often corporate power depends on government intervention in the marketplace. Examples are subsidies/grants, bailouts, and other forms of corporate welfare, which would be against. We also do not favour protectionist tariffs; explicit grants of monopoly privilege; and the seizing of private property for corporate use. Both the PC’s and the Liberals would say that these interventions help create jobs. In fact, all they do is try to pick winners, and any job so created is usually at the cost of another job in another sector of the economy.

Bailing out a company like GM comes with a high price and many unintended consequences: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/08/09/general-motors-finance-bailout-opinions-columnists-warren-meyer.html>

LCBO & The Beer Store

The LCBO is the Ontario government alcoholic beverage monopoly. It was established in 1927 after a brief attempt at alcohol prohibition.

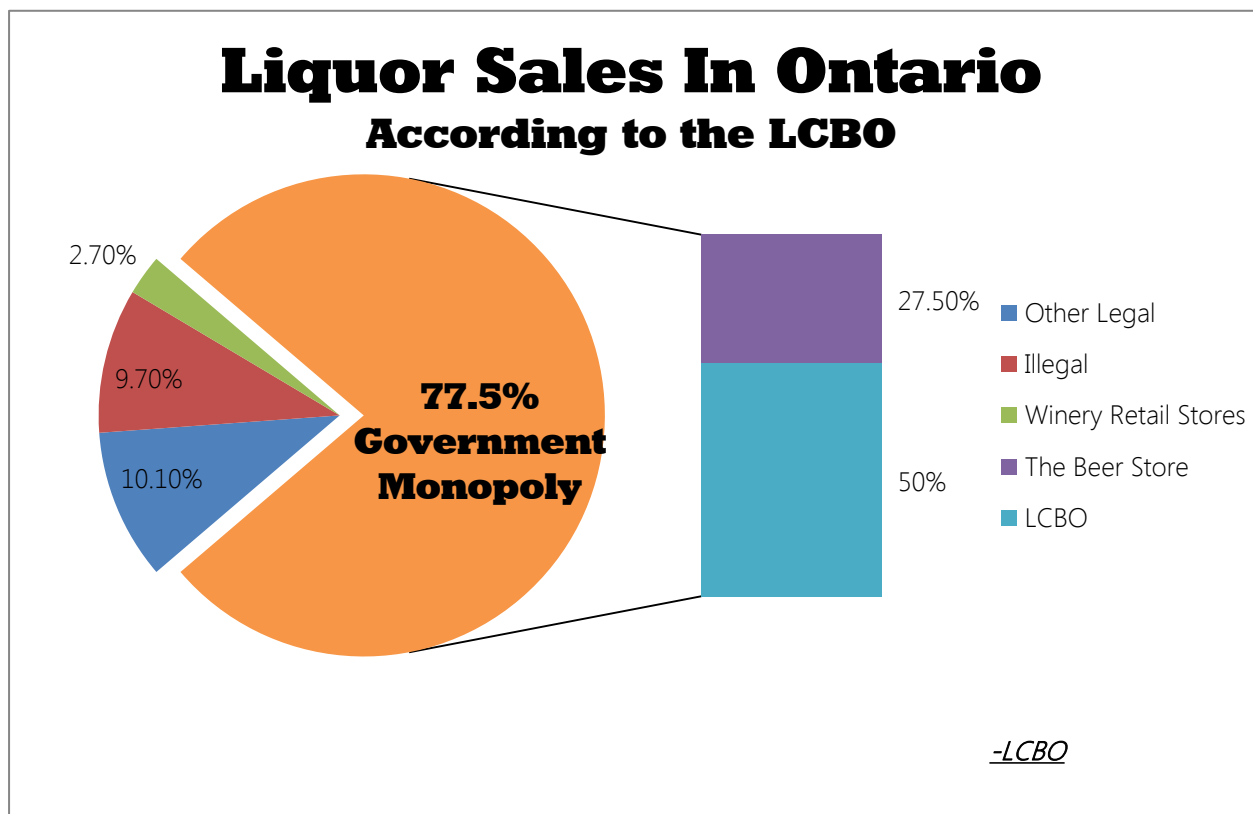
The supporters of the LCBO monopoly do so, because they claim (based on government and union sources) that it brings in revenue for the province. That's reassuring, even the government can't screw this up. It is no surprise that the government can sell beer, wine, and liquor to the exclusion of most competition and they make a profit! It's a classic case of looking at just one side of the economic equation. The citizens of Ontario are taxed heavily for alcoholic beverages, and the government also fixes the price and eliminates competition, and they make profit. How hard is that? Of course they do.

A run-of-the-mill case of 24 beer cans in Niagara Falls Ontario will cost about \$40 at the LCBO, and across the imaginary line in Niagara Falls, New York, at the Walmart, it costs \$18.

The LCBO is one of the largest bulk buyers of alcohol in the world, so why don't Ontarians get a better price? Several reasons.

- It's for our own good → As part of Ontario's nanny-state-syndrome, our politicians don't think the good people of Ontario are smart enough to handle their liquor. So we get a guilt message each time we purchase. High price is part of the social engineering or as they call it "social responsibility."
- Unionized work force → The Ontario government has a monopoly agreement with the LCBO workers through their union OPSEU. Imagine a mom-and-pop variety store selling beer and liquor in the United States. They make a living if they compete with other retail outlets, but there is no guarantee of salary. It depends on their ability to provide value. Not true at the LCBO. A store manager makes over \$61,000 annually in a 40 hour week with great benefits (see page 90 of the OPSEU collective agreement). I have nothing against unions, but the Ontario Libertarian Party believes that paying a cashier \$55,000 plus benefits is outrageous.
- Backwards Operating Logic → The LCBO also competes for "share of wallet", that is, discretionary spending. Discretionary spending is money that consumers may decide to allocate towards other retailers for things like Christmas gifts, luxury food, or movies, instead of a bottle of wine with dinner. However, to paraphrase the LCBO, "it's important that customers visit our stores because they want to, not because they have to. Unlike other retailers, however, we can't offer deep price discounts. That would not be socially responsible."
- Low competition → The LCBO claims it has competition. Their own data sources shows that more than 77% of liquor sales are from the government monopoly. See the figure on the next table for a visual breakdown of the monopolistic LCBO

accounting for 50% of the total liquor sales in Ontario, and The Beer Store, albeit a private monopoly sanctioned by the government, to sell beer.



- Hidden Costs → The third reason why Ontario has to pay so much for liquor is the ridiculous product mark-ups ranging from 38% to 52%, that's before the "behind the sticker" 12% to 25% tax rates. \$0.11 of every dollar the LCBO takes in as revenue, goes towards their stores or marketing. The Ontario Libertarian Party questions why a state own monopoly needs to spend any money at all, on advertising. We hypothesize that changing the line item name on their report from marketing, to propaganda, would be a better representation of where some of the hidden costs go at the LCBO.

Corrupt Reporting Methods: Making Up Numbers & Changing the Units

In between annual reports, the LCBO manipulated the numbers to attempt to make themselves appear like a smaller market participant. In past reports they reported channel data using their own sales contrasted against the derived sales based on volume for their 'competition'. They used the average retail rate in the LCBO stores, to calculate the estimated sales of illegal options. The Ontario Libertarian Party is highly skeptical that the illegal options cost the same amount as the legal options. We hypothesize that the average price of illegal options is lower than the price of legal ones. Using their calculation method, it produced the pie chart shown in the previous section, with what we believe

is likely understated total amount of monopolistic sales. When this data was released, the Ontario Libertarian Party is on record pointing out how skewed the numbers seemed.

In more recent annual reports (2011), pg 88, they admit there numbers were inflated. The government actually admitted their own incompetence. However, now, they report the volume sold by each channel. This new data set allows the LCBO to point to the Beer Store as the largest channel. Now, the data shows that monopolistic government liquor sales are 89.5% - by volume.

Our Plan

The Ontario Libertarian Party would quickly and simply sell the LCBO, then legalize competition. Convenience stores, groceries stores, would all quickly become competitors with the LCBO. It's our belief that the people of Ontario would quickly be given more choices, convenience and quality at a lower price.

PROTECT YOURSELF & REPEAL THE LAW

Firearms and Gun Control

Libertarians believe that the peaceful possession of firearms should not be a crime, and that the ownership of such firearms is part of every person's right to own and enjoy private property.

Further, the ownership and use of firearms is the right of a citizen, and should only be limited by threats or acts of violence. We believe in the inherent and inalienable right of all people to self-defense including the use of firearms for this purpose.

Libertarians believe that education is the best means of ensuring responsible behavior with firearms rather than legislation and regulation.

The Libertarian Party of Canada would repeal the former gun control Bills C-51, C-17 and C-68 and resulting regulations with the aim of trusting the people to behave in a generally responsible manner, while at the same time severely punishing those who would commit violence by misusing firearms.

Section 92(14) of the Constitution gives provinces responsibility for the Administration of Justice in the province. Section 109 of the Firearms Act gives the Federal government the authority to enforce the provisions of the Firearms Act even if the provincial government opposes such a move.

Provincial governments who may be gun friendly then have at least two choices to resist in this regard:

(1) Challenge Section 109 of Bill C-68 in court, or

(2) Refuse to continue enforcement of the provisions of the Firearms Act. Refusal by the province to enforce the provisions of the Firearms Act would force the federal government / RCMP to take over

and incur the full administration responsibility and costs of the Firearms Act regulations that was downloaded on Ontario by the sympathetic provincial governments at that time.

In the short term, Libertarians would declare that if elected as the governing party of Ontario, it would move to opt out of administering the Firearms Act and put the full burden of administering the Firearms Act back on the Federal government where it belongs.

PRIVATE INSURANCE WOULD DO A BETTER JOB

Workman's Compensation

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) is not a smart program in the eyes of Libertarians. The Ontario Liberty Party would favour a private voluntary system to reduce costs but give adequate benefits. This is insurance. Why the government needs to be involved is not clear.

A private system operates in the State of Nevada:

http://www.workerscompquotes.us/pages/workers_comp/nevada_workerscomp.php

"Workers compensation insurance in Nevada can be purchased through the private market where companies bid on your policy or through some type of state fund. State workers compensation insurance is usually the option of last resort because it can be much more expensive than through the private market. The obvious goal is to get the cheapest or a cheap workers comp rate that provides for adequate coverage."