

Together It Works: An Economic Plan that Works for Everyone

Ontario is in the midst of an economic storm caused by the international financial market meltdown and global recession.

Our government has the power and the opportunity to improve our economic future and the lives of Ontarians. It has the power and opportunity to stave off the worst of a recession, build a stronger and more sustainable economy, and to provide relief to people that really need help. The way to do it is laid out in the OFL's 4 point plan:

1. Maintain Ontario's industrial base by helping businesses survive the current economic storm

Many businesses, which are viable and an integral part of the Ontario economy, are at risk. Although they could operate profitably in the future, they are in danger in the short-term. Closing plants and shipping equipment to China is not the best long-term response to short-term problems, no matter how dire they are. These companies and workers need support from government to get through these hard times.

2. Get good value from infrastructure investments

We need a Buy Ontario policy for the infrastructure projects announced in the budget. This will ensure that Ontarians get the maximum benefit from Ontario tax dollars.

We need to work together at the local level to make sure that infrastructure projects meet local needs, and move our economy to a greener path.

3. Support public services when we need them the most

We must allocate funding to support public services when Ontarians need them the most. Cutbacks cost jobs, reduce economic activity, and the quality of public services. Hard times increase the need for public services, such as health care and social services.

4. Provide relief to people who really need it

The Ontario government must deliver on its own promise to reduce poverty. This must include improved adjustment assistance for workers who lose their jobs. This will require increased access to income supports; increased adjustment and training assistance; and a program to support older workers.

The federal government needs to step up to the plate and reform EI to provide better support to unemployed people.

The financial crisis highlighted the impact of deregulation of financial markets on retirement savings. The Ontario government needs to move quickly to increase benefit security for those with workplace pensions and improve retirement incomes for all Ontarians.