

Question	Eleanor McMahon - Liberal	Jane McKenna - Progressive Conservative	Andrew Drummond - NDP	Vince Fiorito - Green	Jim Gilchrist - Libertarian
If elected, what measures would your party introduce in order to reduce the cost of electricity for businesses?	<p>After years of neglect, our electrical system had fallen into disrepair. Over the past decade, our government invested \$70 billion to transform the electrical system ensuring that it is reliable, clean, green and meets the needs of Ontario businesses.</p> <p>The efficiency and effectiveness of what was a failing system, was Job #1. But the investments we made were proving difficult for ratepayers to manage, and so we brought in the single largest electricity rate reduction in Ontario history. Approximately half a million businesses and farms //</p>	<p>Right now, seniors, small businesses, and families are paying for hidden expenses on their hydro bills that have nothing to do with keeping the lights on. We're going to fix that. The 3 Point PC Plan: · Return all Hydro One dividends to hydro customers · Stop the practice of burying the cost of conservation programs on hydro bills and instead move those programs to the tax base · Place an immediate moratorium on any new energy contracts while walking back and re-negotiating existing contracts where possible Together //</p>	<p>After Hydro One was sold off, rates jumped significantly. We need to bring Hydro One back where it belongs, in the public's hands, so we can get private profits off your hydro bill. Our plan will allow us to reduce bills by 30 per cent and keep them down.</p>	<p>Conduct an independent review of costs, benefits and alternatives of all electricity sources. Offer Ontario businesses discounted surplus electricity first, before exporting it at a loss. Develop expertise in a global growth industry by decommissioning expensive nuclear power stations starting with Pickering · Import affordable Quebec hydro power at 1/3 the cost of nuclear. Build infrastructure to import affordable Manitoba hydro power. Help Burlington Hydro upgrade their infrastructure to support smart grid so they can buy and sell local renewable and stored energy including from EVs.</p>	<p>Ontario customers pay almost twice as much for electricity compared to Quebec and Manitoba. By changing government policy we will return rates to competitive levels in a few years. ·Repeal the Green Energy Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·End discriminatory delivery charges crushing rural residents ·Remove all subsidized power from the grid ·Terminate for convenience all subsidized generation contracts ·Transfer off the books all termination costs (including past gas plant) ·Terminate Liberal Government appointees from boards and electricity related entities
Many local employers who are members of our Chamber of Commerce have mentioned the difficulties associated with recruiting skilled tradespeople. What improvements, if any, will you make to job training programs, apprenticeship programs, co-op programs and youth employment programs to help Ontario businesses hire and train new employees?	<p>Ontario has the largest apprenticeship system in Canada, with more than 150 trades in four sectors: construction, industrial and manufacturing, motive power and service.</p> <p>We have invested \$160 million in a modernized apprenticeship system that meets the changing demands of the economy by giving apprentices the skills they need to succeed and providing employers with the talent they need to thrive. The goal is to develop a system that provides end-to-end supports for both apprentices and employers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Creating better incentives for employers to // 	<p>The PC Party has not articulated a new policy on enhancing education or apprenticeship programs. Ontario colleges offer a variety of applied training programs designed to improve the skills of our plumbers, electricians, millworkers and construction project managers. I understand these programs are competitive and demand is high. Many of these are co-op programs. When I was MPP from 2011 to 2014 I met with advanced manufacturing companies who felt that better cooperation, consultation and coordination between employers and educators was needed. This all needs //</p>	<p>Andrea Horwath and an NDP government would ensure funding in our colleges and universities keeps up with the growing needs and make it easier for students, giving every student approved for OSAP a non-repayable grant instead of a loan. We would also create 27,000 new placements for youth in paid co-ops and internships. We will also invest \$57 million from the Jobs and Prosperity Fund for more opportunities in the trades, focusing on bringing more women and equity-seeking groups into the skilled trades.</p>	<p>Use the Ontario College Application Service to unify access to all apprenticeship application and registration programs. Expand apprenticeship and training programs to include incentives for mentoring and co-op program participation. Provide an additional option for employers to receive up-front subsidies when hiring co-op students. Reduce journey people to apprentice ratio to 1:1, increasing training and employment opportunities. Help new businesses scale up and sustain growth with programs to foster 'intra-preneurial' skills in a low-risk/high-reward environment. Support life-long learning apprenticeship opportunities. Support start-up "senior-preneur" businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Make Ontario more competitive (lower costs / taxes / cost of living) to attract and retain skilled workers ·Facilitate greater dialogue and participation between employers and training facilities to identify the nature of skill shortfalls, their causes and effective remedies ·Encourage training facilities to develop better employer / employee matching systems that will increase the conversion of trainees to full time employees ·End mandatory registration with the College of Trades ·Encourage trainers to include management, leadership and soft skill development with technical skill development
What steps would you and your party take to reduce business regulations?	<p>Our government has a strong record of reducing red tape. Since 2011, our burden-reduction initiatives have saved businesses over \$122 million and 5.4 million hours. If re-elected, we would continue to take this responsible approach to reducing regulation to ensure that businesses in Ontario continue to grow and thrive.</p> <p>We also launched the Red Tape Challenge, an online portal where citizens and businesses can submit ideas to cut red tape within seven industry sectors. It helps identify and eliminate unnecessary regulatory practices, shorten response times //</p>	<p>A PC government will review and reduce the red tape and regulations that require small and medium sized businesses to spend so many hours doing paperwork to satisfy all the ongoing formal compliance requirements. We will ensure that small business workers who make minimum wage will pay no provincial income tax. In addition, an Ontario PC Government will reduce small business hydro bills by 12 per cent. And we will reduce the small business tax rate by 8.7 per cent. Small and medium sized businesses //</p>	<p>Our party would look to enhance consumer protection by enforcing existing rules against things like high-pressure door-to-door sales and we will continue our fight against predatory pay-day lenders. And as problem sectors pop up, we'll expand the regulations to cover them, making sure all Ontarians can have more faith in this province's businesses.</p>	<p>Implement smart regulations that take into account size, allowing small businesses to compete fairly with large corporations. Allow realtors to incorporate. Allow craft brewers and distillers to open stores and form distribution co-ops. Allow small regulated, licensed, local cannabis growers and dispensaries to run as sole proprietorships and partnerships. Eliminate uncontrollable giant corporate McCanabis monopolies. Replace the complex and loophole infested carbon tax grab, cap and trade with revenue neutral pollution fees that pay back as dividends to all Ontarians equitably to help eliminate poverty.</p>	<p>Ontario has over 380,000 regulations on the books that are expensive to enforce, twice as many as the next province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Roll back Bill 148 ·End mandatory insurance with WSIB ·End mandatory registration with the College of Trades ·Repeal existing legislation that restricts the supply of housing units of all types especially in the Greater Toronto - Hamilton area, so that our youth can afford to purchase or rent ·Reduce expensive and ineffective "enforcement" bureaucracy ·Eliminate anti-competition regulations that give government entities their existing monopoly privileges
What tax credits and incentives would you propose to attract and retain business in Ontario?	<p>As a government our goal is to create an environment where business and entrepreneurship thrive. To achieve a business friendly climate we lowered the small business tax rate by 22%. We're also investing \$124 million over three years to help small businesses and employers hire and retain youth age 15 to 29.</p> <p>Our film and television sector is a \$2.7-billion powerhouse, supporting 49,300 jobs and is the fastest growing in North America due in large part to our highly skilled workforce, but also to the //</p>	<p>Under the Liberals, Ontario has lost over 300,000 well-paying manufacturing jobs. These were good jobs with benefits that provided a good quality of life. We have a plan that will stop more businesses from leaving Ontario for Mexico and overseas and get our jobs back. A PC Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Stabilize industrial hydro rates through a package of aggressive reforms o Cut corporate income taxes from 11.5% to 10.5% to stay competitive with our neighbours and enable businesses to create good paying jobs o Cut // 	<p>The Ontario NDP is committed to expanding auto and manufacturing jobs in Ontario, and we will create a stream within the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to promote manufacturing research and development. We will focus on making Ontario the place people want to launch an innovative startup. Our drug and dental programs will make it easier for entrepreneurs to offer employees benefits from day one, making it easier to attract top talent.</p>	<p>An RRSP/TFSA eligible Community Bond program for local innovators and entrepreneurs. Support rapid new product prototyping to enhance Ontario manufacturer competitiveness. Support re-tooling Ontario's manufacturing to adapt to robotics, 3D materials printing and laser cutting. Implement smart grid networks across Ontario, accelerating the transition to affordable renewable energy, batteries and energy storage, automated electric vehicles and transportation as a service. A Basic Income Guarantee that obsoletes employee benefit programs. A Green Building program that creates business opportunities while reducing homeowner, renter and business energy costs.</p>	<p>Government needs to focus on debt reduction, appropriate service provision, and the facilitation of an attractive environment that enables private sector growth rather than offering short-term subsidies and corporate welfare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Reduce the size and scope of government ·Review and significantly reduce regulations (ie: roll back Bill 148) ·Overhaul our energy policy to establish reasonable electricity costs ·Eliminate corporate taxation (corporations will still pay HST) ·Eliminate the carbon tax ·Keep the minimum wage at \$14.00 ·Encourage complimentary private sector options, to increase competitiveness and economic growth
The Places to Grow Act has put pressure on municipalities to grow and intensify. Increasing demand is causing a decrease in affordability. What measures would your party introduce to address this imbalance?	<p>To continue with the status quo of uncontrolled sprawl was not an option. The Places to Grow Act was brought in to enable the province and communities to plan for future growth in a strategic and sustainable way, with the added benefit of consolidating growth and lowering transportation costs. We continue to make progress on working with municipalities, giving them the tools they need to develop live-and-work neighbourhoods that will enhance livability and attract investment. As the population of the GTHA continues to rise, our //</p>	<p>We have a housing crisis in Ontario that has thrived under the Liberal's watch. The dream of home ownership has slipped away for many young people. Almost 40 per cent of tenant households in Ontario spend over 30 per cent of their income on rent, considered below the standard of affordability. In Burlington/Hamilton house prices rose 173 per cent between 2000 and 2015. This is 3.7 times greater than the increase in average household income. This a serious and challenging problem of under- supply stemming //</p>	<p>Andrea Horwath and Ontario's New Democrats believe safe, affordable housing is a right. To make it easier for Ontarians to buy a home, we're going to clamp down on land speculation and property flipping, maintaining the Non-Resident Speculation Tax and introducing new anti-speculation taxes whose proceeds will be dedicated to affordable housing. We'll also work with municipalities to increase the supply of affordable homes by encouraging them to develop sustainable, transit friendly and neighbourhood friends "missing middle" housing.</p>	<p>Eliminate minimum population growth quotas. Empower municipalities to manage intensification as well as neighborhood character and nature with official plans and zoning by-laws. Reward intensification with density bonuses, including funding for supporting infrastructure, mass transit, dedicated bus and truck lanes, EVs and pathways for pedestrians, bikes and mobility aids. Modernize building codes to encourage secondary suites, laneway housing, "tiny houses" and sale of air rights. Mandate developers build 1 affordable, accessible unit for every 5 new homes, condos or rental unit. Increase vacant property taxes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Reduce provincial influence regarding preferred housing types (ie: high density) or where development should occur ·Encourage municipalities to maintain a supply of serviceable, development ready lands ·Increase the supply of the type of housing that people want, to reduce prices ·Reduce regulations on developers that can add up to \$230,000 on single family homes ·Provide people with the financial resources (via economic growth) to purchase, and maintain, their home (lower taxation and energy costs) ·Reduce Ontario Land Transfer Tax to a flat fee of \$275.00
How would you create efficiencies in the healthcare system to make funding more equitable across the province?	<p>I was proud to play a role in bringing the new patient tower to Joseph Brant Hospital. In the 2015 Budget, I secured a \$2.7-million investment to improve emergency department wait times that has resulted in a significant reduction in our hospital wait times. Our hospital now has one of the best ED wait times in the province.</p> <p>Our government has reformed how health care is funded to create system efficiencies and to be responsive to the evolving health care needs of the population. Further //</p>	<p>This is an interesting and important question on a quality indicator for our health care system which is often overlooked and misunderstood. While we have a reasonably good health care system by any standard, equity across our province is an ongoing challenge from a geographic as well as a socio-economic perspective. One of the ways we will create efficiencies in the system is to build 30,000 long term care beds over 10 years so we can provide the appropriate level of care in the appropriate //</p>	<p>We will restore hospital funding and make sure that it always keeps up with inflation, population growth and aging – as well as the unique needs in our communities like rural hospitals. We will put a moratorium on layoffs and do a comprehensive review of staffing needs with our health care partners. We will make major investments - \$1.2 billion in this year alone – to make sure hospitals have the funding, staffing and capacity they need.</p>	<p>Universal pharmacare, dental care, eye care and hearing care. Define minimum core service availability and timeliness for all Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN) Increase funding for LHINs that don't meet minimum standards. Empower Nurse Practitioners as primary health care providers who can lead clinics. Increased merit based tuitionless health professional training followed by a 5 year residency assignment or repay tuition. Increased midwifery training and birthing centers. Fareless public transit for rural residents requiring health care. Increased funding for telemedicine. Accelerate smart home technology research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Review the cost / benefit of the LHIN system and other administrative costs ·Attach average per person healthcare funding to the individual not OHIP ·Allow non-Government insurance options in addition to OHIP, to receive the same per person funding, to provide the exact same service, to charge other fees, to provide "specialty" packages (ie: Athletes, Autism Plans) and to sub-contract services to OHIP, (ie: Basic Medical) ·Enable healthcare professionals, doctors, nurses, technicians to work for either OHIP or non-Government providers, or both
Would you support a two-tier medical system? Please explain.	<p>I support one single-tier publicly funded health care system in Ontario.</p> <p>All Ontarians deserve quality and timely access to the highest-quality health care when and where they need it and this is only achieved through a health care system that is accessible to all regardless of income or economic standing.</p> <p>A two-tier system often results in specialists who focus on the private pay system that serves the wealthiest and most profitable patients, creating inequalities and longer wait times for complex cases in the public system.</p>	<p>I do not support a two tier health care system. Despite the fact that there are several countries that have highly ranked two tier systems with excellent outcomes Canadians have a deep attachment to the concept of free and equitable health care for all. We believe that no one should be denied health care based on ability to pay. The Canada Health Act and the Ontario government view health care as a one-tier system. There is evidence to suggest that we are increasingly and insidiously //</p>	<p>Ontario's NDP is 100% committed to Canada's public health system.</p>	<p>No. Two tiers can't coexist. Self interest will inevitably destroy our cherished public system, leaving us with a user pay system. Instead I support a fully funded altruistic public health care system supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased tuitionless, merit based healthcare professional education opportunities with 5 year assigned residency requirements, or repay tuition, - reduced healthcare professional workloads and increased compensation, including equal pay for equal work. Funding will come from savings resulting from bulk government purchases of most pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and services. 	<p>As a one size fits all, sole health insurance option, OHIP fails to meet everyone's needs. As a result, some people seek care outside the province taking needed money (and jobs) with them. By providing complimentary private healthcare options, in addition to OHIP, more people will be encouraged to keep their money within Ontario, more health providers will be hired / available to offer care, there will be less financial and performance pressure (wait times) on the OHIP providers, and the system can expand.</p>

// indicates 85 words. Candidates were given an 85 word maximum per question.